

ONONDAGA;  
OR  
REMINISCENCES

OF  
EARLIER AND LATER TIMES;

BEING A SERIES OF HISTORICAL SKETCHES RELATIVE TO ONONDAGA; WITH  
NOTES ON THE SEVERAL TOWNS IN THE COUNTY,

AND

OSWEGO.

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By JOSHUA V. H. CLARK, A. M.  
CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

SYRACUSE:  
STODDARD AND BABCOCK.

.....  
1849.



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# CONTENTS, VOL. II.

## CHAPTER XII.

### ONONDAGA SALT SPRINGS.

When First Visited by the French. Salt made by the Indians. Owned by Sir William Johnson. First Manufacturers. Federal Company. First Laws in respect to Salt Springs, passed 1797. First Superintendent. Powers and Duties of Superintendent and Lessees. Rules observed in Making and Packing Salt. Coarse Salt. Progress of Manufacture. Borings. Table of Statistics. List of Superintendents and Inspectors. Modes of Manufacture. Onondaga Lake. Formation of the Onondaga Valley. Illustrations. Dr. William Kirkpatrick. . . . . 7

## CHAPTER XIII.

### ERIE CANAL.

Biographical Sketch of Hon. James Geddes. Origin of Internal Improvements. Inland Lock Navigation Company. Erie Canal. Hydraulic Cement 45

## CHAPTER XIV.

### SYRACUSE.

Biographical Sketch of Hon. Joshua Forman. The City of Syracuse. Its Rise and Progress. . . . . 69

## CHAPTER XV.

### NOTES ON THE SEVERAL TOWNS OF ONONDAGA COUNTY.

ONONDAGA. Asa Danforth, Esq. Thaddeus M. Wood, Esq. Jasper Hopper, Esq. Antiquities. . . . .	108
SALINA, . . . . .	138
GEDDES, . . . . .	149
Great Alarm, 1794. . . . .	153
LYSANDER. Dr. Jonas C. Baldwin. Baldwinsville. . . . .	159
CICERO. Brewerton. Fort. Frenchman's Island. . . . .	171
CLAY, . . . . .	190

MANLIUS, Hon. Azariah Smith. Nicholas P. Randall, Esq. Manlius Village. Anecdote of Baron Steuben. Fayetteville. Deep Spring. Green Pond.	Page 194
DE WITT. Moses De Witt, Esq. Jamesville. Orville. Messina Springs.	232
POMPEY. Hollow. Delphi. Antiquities.	241
LA FAYETTE,	252
MARCELLUS,	259
SKANEATELES, Daniel Kellogg, Esq. Village.	301
CAMILLUS. Plaster. Coal. Col. John Dill.	313
ELBRIDGE. Jordan. Cave. Antiquities.	320
VAN BUREN,	325
FABIUS,	330
TULLY,	335
OTISCO. Wyllys Gaylord,	339
SPAFFORD,	348

## CHAPTER XVI.

## OSWEGO.

Erection of a Trading House and Fort, by Governor Burnet. Gen. Shirley. Col. Mercer. Operations of Col. Bradstreet. Oswego Falls. Bone Hill. Oswego Taken by Montcalm. Incidents. Attacked by the British 1813. Early Settlement.	354
Conclusion,	393

	Page
anlius Vil-	
g. Green	
. . .	194
Springs.	232
. . .	241
. . .	252
. . .	289
. . .	301
. . .	313
. . .	320
. . .	328
. . .	330
. . .	335
. . .	339
. . .	348

hirley. Col.	
ill. Oswego	
Early Set-	
354	
393	

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES WITH PORTRAITS, VOL. II.

	Page
Hon. JAMES GEDDES, . . . . .	45
Hon. JOSHUA FORMAN, . . . . .	69
THADDEUS M. WOOD, Esq., . . . . .	118
JASPER HOPPER, Esq., . . . . .	124
Doctor JONAS C. BALDWIN, . . . . .	159
Hon. AZARIAH SMITH, . . . . .	194
NICHOLAS P. RANDALL, Esq., . . . . .	201
DANIEL KELLOGG, Esq., . . . . .	300

### OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Hon. WILLIAM KIRKPATRICK, . . . . .	39
ASA DANFORTH, Esq., . . . . .	115
MOSES DE WITT, Esq., . . . . .	230
DAN BRADLEY, Esq., . . . . .	296
Col. JOHN DILL, . . . . .	317
Mr. WYLLYS GAYLORD, . . . . .	339

## ILLUSTRATIONS, VOL. II.

---

	Page
DIAGRAM, showing the geological position of the different strata of rocks in the county, with their dip, . . .	38
TRANSVERSE SECTION of the ANCIENT ONONDAGA VALLEY and LAKE, . . . . .	39
OLD FORTIFICATION, near GREENPOINT, . . . . .	147
OLD FORT BREWERTON, . . . . .	181
POMPEY MONUMENTAL STONE, . . . . .	265
ANCIENT WORKS NEAR DELPHI, . . . . .	269
OLD FORT, on Isaac Keeler's farm, . . . . .	277
CRUCIFIXES, MEDALS, &c., . . . . .	280
ANCIENT WORKS AT ELBRIDGE, . . . . .	325, 326, 327
VIEW OF OSWEGO as it appeared in 1755, . . . . .	353
OLD FORT AT OSWEGO FALLS, . . . . .	365

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## CHAPTER XII.

## ONONDAGA SALT SPRINGS.

Page
38
39
147
181
265
269
277
280
326, 327
353
365

WHEN FIRST VISITED BY THE FRENCH—SALT MADE BY THE INDIANS—OWNED BY SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON—FIRST MANUFACTURERS—FEDERAL COMPANY—FIRST LAWS IN RESPECT TO SALT SPRINGS, PASSED 1797—FIRST SUPERINTENDENT—POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUPERINTENDENT AND LESSEES—RULES OBSERVED IN MAKING AND PACKING SALT—COARSE SALT—PROGRESS OF MANUFACTURE—BORINGS—TABLE OF STATISTICS—LIST OF SUPERINTENDENTS AND INSPECTORS—MODES OF MANUFACTURE—ONONDAGA LAKE—FORMATION OF THE ONONDAGA VALLEY.—ILLUSTRATIONS—DR. WM. KIRKPATRICK.

As an object of Natural History, the Onondaga Salt Springs are among the most singular and valuable productions with which bountiful nature has enriched our country.

As an object of Chemistry, they are equally interesting, as affording an accurate analysis of the waters, ascertaining the various heterogeneous substances which they hold in solution, and the just proportions of each.

As an object of political interest, they deserve particular consideration, as affording a vast revenue to the State, giving employment to thousands of her citizens, and supplying our extensive country with salt of its own manufacturing.

On all these points, they are of increasing interest and of the highest importance, not only to our country, but to the State at large.

These springs are centrally situated in the county of Onondaga, on the banks of the Onondaga Lake, from the village of Liverpool, around the southern end of the lake to the

outlet of Nine Mile Creek, a circuit of about nine miles. The springs formerly issued naturally from a black muck, which composes the surface of the marsh, by small orifices, apparently in a perpendicular direction.

The marsh from whence they issued, in most places, was destitute of grass and other vegetables, except samphire, and when the sun shone the water was evaporated from the surface of the mud, leaving it covered with chrystalized salt. Other substances which happened within the reach of the salt water, were frequently covered with oxide of iron, giving them a reddish brown color. These appearances may be said to be annually diminishing.

The salt springs at Onondaga, were well known to the Indians, at the time of their first intercourse with the whites. Father Jerome Lallemant, is the first French writer who makes mention of the "*Salt Fountains*" at Onondaga, in his *Relation* of 1645-46.\*

Father Le Moyne, a Jesuit missionary, who had spent some time among the Hurons, and who first came to Onondaga in 1653, with a party of Huron and Onondaga chiefs, as an envoy to ratify a treaty of peace between the two nations, in which the French of Canada were interested, is supposed to be the first white man who first, personally, took notice of the Onondaga Salt Springs. (See Le Moyne's Journal, page 138.) His discovery and declaration was an event so unexpected and surprising to the Dutch, to whom he afterwards related the fact, at New Amsterdam, that the good people of that city, without hesitation, pronounced it "*a Jesuit lie*."†

Father Iogues, visited the Onondagas, some ten years earlier, but makes no mention of these salt springs. It is possible, however, that he may have known of them. Francis Creuxius, a latin writer and a Jesuit missionary, gives a very

\* He speaks in these words: "La fontaine dont on fait des tresbon sel, coupe une belle prairie environnée de bois de haute fustaye. A quartre-vingt ou centaine pas de cette source sallée il s'en voit une autre d'eau douce et ces deux contraires, prennent naissame du sein d'une mesmé colline.

† Dr. O. Callaghan.

minute description of the Onondaga valley, in 1665. (See early history, page 149.)

Charlevoix, as well as others of the Jesuit Fathers, frequently alludes to the salt springs at Onondaga.

In 1770, Onondaga salt was in common use among the Delaware Indians, who in that year brought a quantity of it to the house of the Father of the late Judge Bowker, of Cayuga, who then lived at a place called *Papeconck*, (now Colchester.) He says that it was common for the traders, at that day, to bring small quantities of this salt to Albany, along with their furs as a curiosity, and that they always spoke in high praise of the salt springs at Onondaga.

He says, that at that period he has seen salt in the Indian huts at Onondaga, and the Indian women engaged in making it, and that it was sometimes sent to Quebec for sale.

In a letter of Colonel Comfort Tyler, to Doctor Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, in 1822, which was published in an appendix to his Essay on Salt, Colonel Tyler says, "I was informed that Sir William Johnson had several years before obtained a deed from the Indians of a tract, one mile in width, adjoining and including the entire lake, and that he made the purchase on account of some salt water which had been discovered upon the margin of the lake."

They were well known by reputation to exist, although not explored prior to the American Revolution, and the Legislature of New-York, at an early day, duly appreciated their rising value. By the treaty of "Fort Schuyler, formerly called Fort Stanwix," held 12th September, 1788, the Onondaga Indians ceded to the State of New-York, "all their lands forever," excepting certain "tracts reserved." (See Treaties, page 348.)

At the time the Military Bounty Lands were ordered to be surveyed, in 1791-92, the Surveyor General was directed to make a sufficient reservation, to secure all the salt springs around the Onondaga Lake. The first settlers commenced the making of salt in 1788.

Colonel Tyler's letter before referred to, says, "In the



month of May, in the same year, (1788,) the family wanting salt, obtained about a pound from the Indians, which they had made from the water of the springs upon the shore of the lake. The Indians offered to discover the water to us. Accordingly, I went with an Indian guide to the lake, taking along an iron kettle, of fifteen gallons capacity; this he placed in his canoe, and steered out of the mouth of Onondaga Creek, easterly, into a pass, since called Mud Creek. After passing over the marsh, then flowed by about three feet of water, and steering towards the bluff of hard land, (since the village of Salina,) he fastened his canoe, pointed to a hole apparently artificial, and said, there was the salt."

At this time Col. Tyler informs us that he made, in about nine hours, thirteen bushels of salt of an inferior quality.

Asa Danforth, Esq., commenced making salt in that year, by carrying a five pail kettle from his residence at Onondaga Hollow. He placed his coat on his head, inverted the kettle thereon, and it has been said, carried it the whole distance without taking it off to rest. Comfort Tyler accompanied him, carrying an axe, chain, and other necessary implements, for the purpose of making a suitable erection to "*boil salt.*" They set up two crotches, suspended their kettle on a chain around a pole, between them, and thus carried on the business of making salt. After a sufficient quantity was made for present wants, the kettle, chain, &c., were hid in the bushes, till wanted on another occasion. This practice was continued till the following year. In the fall of 1789, Nathaniel Loomis\* came to Salt Point with a few kettles in a boat, by way of Oneida Lake and River, and during the winter of 1789 and '90, made from 500 to 600 bushels of salt, which he sold for one dollar per bushel.† Mr. William Van Vleck, who was an early settler at Salt Point, and Jeremiah Gould afterwards made salt, in caldron kettles set in arches. In 1793, Moses De Witt, Esq., and William Van Vleck, entered into a co-

\* Mr. Loomis was living two years ago at Bridgewater, Oneida Co. N. Y.

† Col. Tyler's letter to Dr. V. R.

partnership, and erected an arch containing four potash kettles and manufactured quantities sufficient for the wants of the inhabitants of the surrounding country. Other makers of salt soon succeeded. For several years the salt houses were built of logs. The Federal Company, consisting of Asa Danforth, Jedediah Sanger, Daniel Keeler, Thomas Hart, Ebenzer Butler, Elisha Alvord and Hezekiah Olcott, was organized, 1798. The object of the company was to manufacture salt on a stupendous scale. They erected a building of large dimensions for that period, capable of containing thirty-two kettles which were set in blocks of four kettles each. Water was then pumped by hand, from a single shallow well, not thirty feet deep, into reservoirs made of dug out white wood logs. Thus within a very few years from the commencement, the manufacture of salt acquired considerable celebrity, and "Salt Point" became a place of notority abroad. James Geddes also commenced the manufacture of salt at Geddes in 1793, '4; and very soon after, the manufacture was commenced at Liverpool, by John Danforth. The business was so much increased in 1797, that the Legislature in that year, passed their first laws, in reference to the manufacture of salt at the Onondaga Salt Springs. By this act, the Surveyor General was required to lay out the salt springs reservation into lots, not exceeding ten acres, with five acres of salt marsh for the convenience of persons engaged in the manufacture of salt. A lot of larger dimensions, might be reserved for a public store house and other public uses. The Surveyor General was directed to make the survey in person, and to execute a lease for three years, to any person, who had already erected and occupied salt works, on any lot, at this time surveyed, upon the following terms. For every kettle or pan, used or to be used, the lessee should cause to be made at least, ten bushels of salt annually, and pay as a rent for the premises four cents, for every bushel of salt made thereon during the time. And if the spring or springs, on any of the said lots, should yield more water, from which salt could be extracted, than was sufficient for the manufactories established or to be

established on said lot, the lessees of any of the adjoining lots, might lead the surplus waters to their manufactories, and the remaining surplus water to the next, and so on till the same should become exhausted. William Stevens was appointed the first Superintendent of Onondaga Salt Springs, 20th June, 1797, and continued in office till his death.

The Superintendent, was authorized to settle all disputes, and his award was to be final and conclusive. Makers of salt were under penalty, required, at any time, either directly or indirectly, not to ask, demand or receive more than sixty cents a bushel, for salt made on their respective premises, and that no salt should be sold on the leased premises; but all salt made should be put up into barrels or casks, upon each of which the name of the maker, and the quantity of the salt contained, should be branded, and then delivered to the Superintendent of the Salt Springs, at the store or stores by him provided, and there stored till the same was sold. Any proprietor of a salt lot, who did not accept a lease on the foregoing terms, forfeited his right to the same, and the Surveyor General was directed to sell the same at public auction.

The Superintendent was authorized to assign at his discretion, to each of the lessees, a certain proportion of the salt marsh, to be improved by them, for the purpose of "*cutting grass or sedge*" thereon; and any lessee was allowed to cut a canal from his works through the marsh to the lake. Any occupant who did not choose to accept the terms of the new lease, was allowed to remove his kettles and furniture belonging to his works, and to receive pay from the State for any works he had erected.

The duties of the Superintendent were defined. He was directed to store all salt made at the several works, brand his name, and the year when made, on each cask, and to deliver the same to the respective owners, as they sold the same, upon their paying to him the lawful rent, and one cent per bushel for storage; always taking care to keep in store, at least two thousand bushels; and, after the first year, the quantity was to be increased, by five hundred bushels for each year, which

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quantity was to be kept in store, to meet demands made by the citizens of the State of New-York, who depended on obtaining their supply from these works. Superintendent was required to sell to any citizen of the State, of the salt so stored, sufficient for his own use, for sixty cents per bushel, reserving for rent and storage, five cents per bushel, paying to the maker, fifty-five cents per bushel. Owners of stores were allowed to store salt in their own stores, but the keys were to be left with the Superintendent, that he might have the sole care and custody thereof. In such case, the owner was not chargeable with storage. The Superintendent was charged with the wood on the reservation, in the vicinity of the salt springs. The first store-house, or the building used for that purpose, was the old "Block-house," built for defense in 1794.

The sum of two thousand dollars was authorized by the Legislature, for the purpose of building a wharf and store-house at the salt springs, as the Surveyor General should direct. At the expiration of the leases, the Legislature reserved the right, to take any of the works by paying the owners the true value thereof, to be ascertained by competent persons, appointed by the Legislature, or to grant new leases on like terms, for the term of seven years. Individuals were made punishable for occupying any part of the reservation without a lease from the Superintendent, who was to receive a salary of eight hundred dollars per year, and was not to allow the duties, to be done by another. It may be worthy of remark, that it was sometimes customary for the Superintendent to give certificates, for deposits of salt in the public store-house, and these certificates passed from one to another, as cash, so that the public store-house in substance became a BANK. The manufacturing of salt steadily increased. The business, except sufficient to pay the rents and duties was mainly carried on by exchanges of the productions of the soil for salt, and not much more was made, than to satisfy the demands of home consumption. Some, however, made its way to Canada, by water carriage, and to Utica, through Oneida Lake, and through the Seneca River, to the villages

on the lesser lakes. In winter, the store-houses and works, in seasons of sleighing, were nearly emptied; the article having a demand in the southern counties of Tioga and Chenango. The business of manufacturing salt became more extensive than the Legislature had anticipated, and it was found impossible for the Superintendent to store all the salt that was made, and charge the rents and duties thereon, according to the provisions of the statute. It was therefore enacted, 30th of March, 1798, that lessees should account to the Superintendent, under oath, for the quantity made, and lessees were allowed to pay rent, according to the capacity of their kettles, at the rate of two cents per month for every gallon of the capacity of their pans or kettles, instead of the rent of four cents per bushel, as provided for in the several leases.

All persons who complied with this new regulation, and accounted punctually, once a week to the Superintendent, for the quantity made, were permitted to sell the same on the premises, but only in quantities less than three bushels, unless the same was put up in casks, boxes or barrels, well made, of seasoned timber, and branded with the initials of the first names, and the surname in full, and inspected by the Superintendent. All salt made at any manufactory, should be sold by weight, at the rate of fifty-six pounds per bushel. The Superintendent was authorized to lease lots to new applicants, and whenever they had erected a sufficient manufactory, with kettles or pans, with a capacity of three hundred and forty gallons, the lease was to be confirmed.

In 1799, an act was passed, requiring all salt, manufactured at the salt springs, to be deposited in the public store-house, for inspection, and if necessary, sort it into two qualities. The first quality to be free from dirt and filth, with the bitterns properly separated therefrom, and fully drained from brine. The second quality, to be free from impurities, dry, and not more than twenty-five per cent. inferior to the first quality. All salt so manufactured, was directed by law, to be packed in good, seasoned white oak casks, water tight, well hooped with twelve hoops, three on each head and three on each

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bilge, to be thirty inches long, and the diameter of each head to be nineteen inches. The Superintendent was directed to mark the tare on each barrel, and after the whole was weighed, deduct the tare, and brand the weight and quality, and put on the number of cents, he should adjudge the salt to be worth per bushel, and brand his name on the same. The Superintendent, on receiving and inspecting any salt, as afore-said, in the public stores, gave the manufacturer a certificate for the same, and he delivered the same salt to the bearer of the certificate, on his paying five cents for rent and storage, for every fifty-six pounds weight. The Superintendent was authorized to inspect salt, ready for transportation by water, and no salt was to be shipped, but from the public wharf, on penalty of five dollars, for every bushel so shipped, to be paid by the shipper, or the person receiving the same in any boat or vessel, besides the forfeiture of the salt, which was to be seized for the benefit of the people of the State of New-York. It was made the duty of the Superintendent, to seize any salt on board any boat, wagon, sleigh, or other carriage, and remove the same to the public store-house, for the benefit of the people of the State. Any person packing any uninspected salt, was to be fined five dollars. The Superintendent was required to provide and keep for every manufacturer, a separate bin for his salt, previous to its being inspected and sold. A penalty of five dollars was forfeited by any person, who should buy or sell any uninspected salt. Settlements were required to be made quarterly with the lessees, and arrears of rent were allowed to be paid in salt. The Superintendent was allowed this year, one hundred dollars for the hire of an assistant, and pay for stationery, brands and implements, necessary for the inspection of salt. Heavy penalties were enacted against any who should cut or carry off wood from the reservation, without consent of the Superintendent. He was required to settle all accounts with each lessee or manufacturer on the first day of January in each year, account with the comptroller yearly, and report to the Legislature the state of the Onondaga Salt Springs.

In 1801, the act relative to the Superintendent's keeping a quantity of salt in store was repealed, and the one cent duty was not to be demanded.

William Kirkpatrick was appointed Superintendent of Onondaga Salt Springs, April 8, 1806. His is the first report to which we have had access. On the first of January, that year, he reports 159,071 bushels as made during the year ending January 1, 1806; and the year following, he reports 154,760 bushels as manufactured at the salt springs. About this time, John Richardson, Esq. erected a frame salt works and *ten kettle block* in a rude arch, which was thought to be almost a miracle, far exceeding any thing before erected.

The first well of any note was at Salina—a large hole twenty feet square and about thirty feet deep—sunk during the superintendence of Dr. Kirkpatrick. Each manufacturer then set his own pumps; the water was pumped by hand and conducted in spouts to the several works. The introduction of Hathaway's patent hand pump was considered a vast improvement.

John Richardson was appointed Superintendent, February 16, 1810. While in office, he conducted the water of Yellow Brook from Syracuse to Salina, for the purpose of driving a wheel for the elevation of brine. This is believed to be the first machinery erected for that purpose. Pumps were soon after worked by horse-power.

From 1812, after the reinstatement of Dr. Kirkpatrick, we have nearly all the Superintendent's reports. First of January, 1813, Dr. Kirkpatrick reports 221,011 bushels, besides one hundred bushels delivered to the Onondaga Indians; and the duty of three cents per bushel, then collected, yielded a revenue of \$6,630 33.

In 1812, an act was passed directing that the Superintendent should be appointed by the Legislature, and hold his office during their pleasure, having been previously appointed by the Governor and Senate. He was required to give bonds within thirty days after his appointment, in the penalty of \$25,000, for the faithful administration of his office, and to make a full

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report of the condition of the salt springs on the first of Jan-  
uary in each year—a duty which Dr. Kirkpatrick faithfully  
performed during the long period of his holding the office.  
He was required to appoint a deputy for each of the villages  
of Salina, Liverpool and Geddes. A duty of three cents per  
bushel was to be paid by the purchaser or seller, at the time  
of inspection. If any lessee did not elect to pay the duty,  
then he was bound to pay five cents per quarter on each gal-  
lon of capacity of pan or kettles used in the manufacture of  
salt. The Superintendent was required to lay out two acres  
of land on such part of the reservation as he should think  
proper, for the purpose of making salt by evaporation, other  
than by fire; and he was further authorised to lease the same,  
free of rent or duty, as he should think proper, to encourage  
the experiment of making salt by such evaporation. His sala-  
ry was continued at \$800 per annum, and he was allowed \$850  
for the salaries of his three deputies, with allowances for in-  
struments, stationery, &c. necessary for the performance of  
his duties. January 1, 1814, he reports 226,000 bushels of  
manufactured salt; revenue, from duties, \$6,780 00.

In 1813, an act was passed providing for the appointment  
of an assistant deputy superintendent, to keep the office of  
inspection, which office was to be kept open from the rising to  
the setting of the sun; and no deputy or assistant deputy was  
to have any interest whatever in any salt works.

January, 1815, Superintendent reports 295,215 bushels as  
the amount of salt manufactured at the several salt works in  
the town of Salina, and the revenue at three cents per bushel,

Other sources,

\$7,856 45

940 00

Whole revenue for year ending 1st. Jan., 1815, \$8,796 45

In 1816 the office of Deputy Superintendent was abolished  
and the salary of the Superintendent increased by \$250 per  
year.

In 1816, for the increase of the canal fund a duty of twelve  
and a half cents per bushel was laid upon Onondaga salt, to



be collected as heretofore, the three cent duty being set aside, and the Superintendent instead of making a yearly report to the Legislature, was required to make a quarterly report, to the Commissioners of the Canal Fund, and pay into the treasury of the State, all monies collected, except satisfaction for salaries and expenses, on the first Tuesdays of February, May, August and November, in each year.

First of January 1816, Superintendent reports 322,058 bushels manufactured and the revenue at three cents per bushel, \$9,661,74. The annual reports of Superintendent from 1818 to 1823 have not been obtained and the statistics for those years are necessarily omitted.

In 1820, the Commissioners of the land office were authorized, to survey and lay out lots on the salt spring reservation, like other unappropriated lands in the State, and sell them for the convenience and furtherance of the growth of the villages on said reservation, and to lay out so many village and manufacturing lots, with such additional streets, squares, &c., as the wants and future growth and accommodation of the villages, and the extension of salt manufactories on said tract might require. These lots were to be sold and the proceeds handed over to the Commissioners of the Canal Fund and \$20,000, arising from the first of said sales, was to be applied and appropriated, to the improvement of the navigation of Oswego river. Additional caution was used in the manufacture and inspection of salt.

The use of lime or ashes was prohibited in the manufacture of salt, under a penalty of fifty dollars for each and every offense, and manufacturers were required to keep in use two good bittern pans, for every three kettles, employed in the manufacture of salt, under penalty of twenty-five cents for every case of neglect. The effect of these seemingly arbitrary laws and their wholesome administration was the means of improving the quality of the Onondaga salt, which for years had been mingled with impurities incident to carelessness and neglect.

The term reservation, was construed to mean and be, all

the territory, which was originally set apart and reserved for the salt springs of Onondaga County. Privilege was given to every individual or company, to erect works for the manufacture of coarse salt, by evaporation in the sun, or by artificial heat in vats or pans, on any of the public lands, reserved by the commissioners of the land office, for the purpose of manufacturing coarse salt only, for the term of twenty years. Such individuals or companies, erecting manufactories of coarse salt, were allowed to pump and use any surplus water from any of the salt springs at Salina, and carry the same in aqueducts, to reservoirs, to be erected at proper elevations, and from the reservoirs to these manufactories, and to use so much of the surplus water of the Erie Canal on the Salina level, as might be necessary to pump the same; subject to the supervision of the canal commissioners, and they were obliged to pump for any other manufactories at a rate not exceeding two mills per bushel whenever there was sufficient water in the Erie Canal, for driving machinery and sufficient surplus brine in the springs at Salina. The State might take and occupy the same at any time by paying the owners a fair value for the same.

Major Benajah Byington, who for a number of years had been engaged in the manufacture of salt at Salina, was authorized by an act of the Legislature, passed in 1820, to bore for rock salt, at any point on the reservation. In case of discovery within three years, the State was to give him a premium of two cents per bushel of fifty-six pounds, on all salt dug, used or manufactured from such rock salt, for the term of ten years; at the same time, reserving the right to take back, into their own hands, any works, pits, mines, or erections, at any time, by paying three times what the same should cost the proprietor. This act was renewed and strenuous efforts were made to find rock salt, but without success; and it is now generally conceded that rock salt is not to be found, by boring in the immediate vicinity of the salt springs. His borings and explorations were mostly made on the high grounds east of Salina.

To prevent frauds on the revenue and for the interest of the State, it was enacted, in 1821, that the Superintendent might charge duties on the salt water manufactured in vats or pans, according to the quantity of salt they were capable of producing, after making due allowance for waste and impurities. Duties were to be paid quarterly, on the first days of January, April, July and October. In case of non-payment, the Superintendent was authorised to enter on and sell such manufactory at public auction. The commissioners were directed to lay out and set apart, on and near the bank of the Erie canal, between the village of Salina and the Erie canal, and elsewhere in the town of Salina, suitable lands for the erection of manufactories of coarse salt, according to the provisions of the statute. This may be considered the origin and commencement of our solar evaporating salt works. Soon after this were organized the Onondaga and Syracuse Salt Companies, who erected suitable vats and apparatus for the manufacture of coarse salt.

As an encouragement for the manufacture of coarse salt, an act was passed in 1822, offering a bounty of three cents per measured bushel on all coarse salt which should find its way to the banks of the Hudson River or Lake Erie, or that should be shipped from Oswego to Lower Canada, for the term of five years. This bounty was to be paid to the two first manufactories of coarse salt, owned by individuals or companies, who should first and within five years manufacture 100,000 bushels of coarse salt each. As a further inducement, these coarse salt manufactories were allowed the first privilege of salt water from the springs. The wilful destroying of any coarse salt erections by fire or otherwise was made a felony. All laborers engaged about the coarse salt works were exempt from serving on juries and from ordinary military duty.

Four thousand five hundred dollars was appropriated for the purpose of lowering Onondaga Lake. The canal commissioners were instructed to cut a channel, of such width and depth as in their opinion would be necessary to permit the waters of the lake to subside to a level with Seneca River.

This operation was considered quite an improvement in the navigation of the Onondaga River, and in laying bare a wide surface of the salt marsh, which at high water was inundated.

Previous to 1822, the manufacture of salt by boiling had been confined by law to particular portions of the reservation, called salt lots, at the villages of Salina, Geddes and Liverpool. This year an act was passed, allowing salt to be manufactured on the east bank of the Salina canal and elsewhere. There seemed to be a settled opposition to this law and to its going into practical operation, by certain people who clamorously opposed it. The first demonstration towards extending works along the Salina canal was made by John Wilkinson, Matthew Davis, George Davis and Henry Gifford, who proceeded to erect their salt works. The Superintendent remonstrated, stormed, scolded and threatened to tear it down; ordered all workmen to keep clear of it, or they might bring themselves into trouble. Amidst all the turmoil and confusion the work went vigorously on, till in due time it was completed, and directly their works went into successful operation. They were supplied with brine from the coarse salt company's works. Mr. Wilkinson sold his interest to Mr. Gifford, and the remaining partners carried on the manufacture of salt, the first out of the original salt lots of Salina. After a while opposition ceased. Others seeing these works going on in successful and unembarrassed operation, erected salt works all along the Salina canal, which have since continued, without opposition, in uninterrupted prosperity.

In 1823, an act was passed for the closer inspection of salt, and provision made for the appointment of an Inspector, with necessary assistants; one to reside at each of the villages of Salina, Syracuse, Liverpool and Geddes. Heavy penalties were enacted against every species of fraud, and against the waste of water. Amount of salt inspected in 1824 was 827,162 bushels.

In 1825, an act was passed providing an engineer for the salt works at Salina. Simeon Ford, Esq. was appointed by the Governor and Senate, and to him was assigned the whole

possession and supervision of pumps, aqueducts, reservoirs, wells, conduits and machinery, and with the distribution of the salt water, at a salary of one thousand dollars per year. His first report was made to the Legislature on the 7th of February, 1826.

His first movement was to take possession in behalf of the State, of all the buildings and machinery of the Onondaga and Syracuse Coarse Salt Companies, and for the purpose of compounding with said companies for the reasonable value thereof, the whole matter was submitted to Azariah Smith and Sylvanus Tousley, of Manlius and Robert Richardson, of Vernon, who, after due examination, awarded the companies \$8,700, which sum was paid them by the treasurer of the State.

The property, thus taken into the possession of the State, consisted of a well and reservoir with two chambers sixty feet long by twenty-five wide, each six feet deep, with about twenty-five miles of wooden tubes for conveying salt water. In his report he states the following observations:—

“There can be no doubt that there are large beds of fossil salt in the neighborhood of Salina, and recommends the carrying down a shaft to a considerable depth. The probability is, that the fresh water which enters into the salt pits enters the ground on the oak hills back from the lake, and passing over the rock becomes more or less saturated, according to the quantity admitted and the time taken up in passing over the rocks. The reason why the water is supposed to come from the oak hills is, that whenever the present well is cleansed, acorns, hickory nuts, leaves, sticks and pieces of oak wood will be found rising through the orifices in which the salt water appears, from the bottom of the well. A large mandrake rose through one of the crevices at the bottom, and was taken out in a complete state of saturation.”

Under the direction of the engineer, a new well was sunk, thirty feet deep and twelve feet in diameter. This was done as follows: staves were dressed out thirty-two feet long, well fitted together with grooves and tongues, and then set up in

the form of a cylinder and strongly banded with iron. By means of a pile driver these staves were driven about two feet at a time to the depth of thirty feet, after which the earth was taken out from the inside. This and other erections and fixtures cost the State over \$80,000.

Mr. Henry Burden, Superintendent of the Troy Nail Factory, was applied to, to visit the salt springs, in order to devise plans for new pumps, and such erections as might be thought necessary. An expensive outlay was made for the construction of machinery at the Cold Spring foundry, near West Point, and extensive reservoirs were erected for the convenience of the coarse salt fields.

The number of bushels of salt manufactured and reported for the year 1825, was 768,188. The superintendent received a premium of six cents per barrel, on all Onondaga salt going as far east as Albany; tolls on canal being fifteen cents, which gave the State a nett profit of nine cents.

The Superintendent's report, February, 1826, says, "there are now on the reservation, 150 manufactories of fine salt, containing 2,275 kettles, viz.: at Salina, ninety-seven blocks, of 1,412 kettles; at Geddes, twenty blocks, of 274 kettles; at Liverpool, twenty-three blocks containing 311 kettles; and at Syracuse, seventeen blocks, containing 278 kettles; and there are three manufactories of coarse salt by artificial heat, at Salina. The Syracuse Company have erected 36,416 feet in length of vats, for solar evaporation; the Onondaga Salt Company, 35,800 feet; and Henry Gifford, 2,784; making in all, 74,700 feet in length, by eighteen feet in width, exposing a surface of 1,354,640 superficial feet. When in a proper state for evaporation, the vats contain at least 3,000,000 gallons of brine. There have been inspected on the reservation, 816,000 bushels. The whole works now erected, are competent to manufacture two million bushels." This year a pump was borrowed from the State Prison at Auburn, and set up and put in operation at Geddes. It proved unavailable, and the Messrs. Townsend, of Albany, furnished a new pump in the month of December. This year a well was sunk at Liverpool,

which promised a supply of good strong brine. This well was dug in what Professor Eaton terms "saliferous rock." It is the only well dug on the marsh, which did not require a curb. A substantial double forcing pump was erected here to raise the water a sufficient height to run to Liverpool. The Superintendent reports the works to have been greatly improved and enlarged, some of the blocks containing from sixteen to twenty kettles each, of the capacity of from ninety to one hundred gallons.

In 1827, borings were made at Geddes, Salina, and one mile north of Salina, where an abundance of brine was found, of a quality equal, if not superior, to that of the old well at Salina. The office of Engineer of the Onondaga Salt Springs, was this year abolished. Report for January, 1828, states, that 1,103,172 bushels were manufactured and inspected at the several salt works on the Reservation, including the month of November of the previous year.

In 1829, Superintendent reports improvements in the various salt works, and the amount, inspected, 116,888 bushels; the duties of engineer devolving upon him. That borings have been extended to the depth of from sixty to two hundred feet, with a great increase of quality. Number of blocks, 139; number of kettles, 3,065. Principal part of the salt made at Syracuse, is by the Syracuse and Onondaga Salt Companies, by solar evaporation.

In 1830, the first iron tubes were sunk by boring, at Syracuse. Tubes twelve inches in diameter, in sections three and a half feet long, strongly clamped together, proved entirely successful. At a depth of sixty feet, a brine was found of from twenty-five to thirty per cent. greater strength, than that of the Salina well. Six perforations were made in different directions, of the same depths, with the like results. The consequence was, that the well at Green Point was abandoned, the new borings affording a far better quality.

During the year 1831, there was manufactured 189,000 bushels of coarse salt; and, there were also 1,333,024 superficial feet of vats, 135 salt blocks, containing 3,076 kettles.

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The public works for raising salt water in 1831 were reported to consist of seven erections, four of which were carried by water power, and three by steam.

The pumps most in use were three, propelled by water power, two of which were located at Salina, the other at Geddes. The two mill duty on every bushel of salt made for the purpose of defraying the expenses of pumping, &c., was strongly urged to be repealed.

In 1832, reported as manufactured 187,653 bushels of coarse salt, and 679,183 bushels of fine salt; total, 866,836; and the amount collected for raising salt water, \$3,305 97; amount expended during that time for tending pumps and keeping the same in repair, was \$1,992 51.

In 1834, the sum expended on public pumps, during past year, was \$2,897,27; collected for raising salt water, \$3,677. All the manufactories in Liverpool, Salina and Geddes, drew their water from the Salina spring.

In 1831, Mr. Stephen Smith, an agent of the Onondaga Salt Company, and other persons, had bored to the depth of one hundred and sixty feet, and obtained water, which the proprietors of the spring claimed to be equal in quality and quantity to the best spring at Salina. They requested the Superintendent to take possession and charge of it according to law, to which he consented, if the manufacturers there would agree to relinquish the use of the water from the spring at Salina. The Syracuse and Onondaga Salt Companies declined acceding to this proposition. For the purpose of testing the quality of the waters at this well, the Superintendent contracted with Mr. Gifford to put in operation a pump near the spring. Upon a thorough experiment, it was found equal if not superior to the well at Salina, and was taken in charge by the Superintendent for the State.

Whole amount of superficial feet of salt vats for this year, was 1,473,494; Onondaga Salt Company, 618,000; Syracuse Company, 668,488; Gifford's, 119,808; Brewster's at Geddes, 67,198.

In 1835, the best pump at Salina, was insufficient to afford



water for the works. In consequence, most of the manufactories at Liverpool were suspended for several weeks.

Amount paid into the treasury this year, \$121,856 80.

Expenses of pumping, &c., - - 6,130 60.

Collected for pumping by two mill tax, 4,445 77.

In 1836, the Superintendent reported 297,009 bushels less than the previous year. The uncommon depth of snow broke down the salt vat roofs; consequently the best part of the season passed, before they could be repaired. The deep snow also prevented the banking of wood, and the unparalleled spring freshets, seriously injured the works on the banks of the lake, and greatly retarded the commencement of operations. A new well was sunk at Liverpool, and new pump works erected, capable of raising 400 gallons per minute.

In 1837, cost of pumps reported for the year past, including pump houses, reservoirs, and all other fixtures, together with the expense of supplying the Liverpool level of the Oswego Canal with water to propel machinery, \$5,319 32. The whole expense of the engineer's department was \$9,660. Collected from manufacturers, the sum of \$4,322 36 for pumping water for their use, and \$3,450 for ordinary repairs of making and tending the same. \$6,208 99 was expended on canals and new structures. The report says that the present erections are capable, under favorable circumstances, of producing 4,000,000 of bushels, annually. Amount paid into the Treasury, \$115,081 83; amount collected for duties, \$129,677 26.

In 1838-39, was expended in the engineer's department, \$7,762 02; paid by manufacturers for pumping, \$4,849 79; building machinery for horse power, at Liverpool, \$500; opening wells for better supply of brine, \$1600; for instruments to test the strength of brine at different wells, \$112 94; leaving the sum of \$3,643 08 for ordinary repairs. \$8000 was appropriated to enable the Superintendent to sink a shaft or well six hundred feet deep, in the vicinity of some of the salt wells at Salina, unless fossil salt, or a brine of maximum strength, should be sooner found near the present pump house.

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A well was sunk to the depth of 600 feet, and specimens of the rock preserved for examination. The sums expended, amounted to about \$4000, without any satisfactory results. Complaint was made of the depreciation of the quality of the brine at Geddes, of from three to seven per cent.

In 1840, the ordinary expenditures amounted to \$7,750, part of which, was appropriated to the erection of a steam engine, pump house and fixtures at Liverpool, and deepening and tubing the well at Geddes. A new well at Syracuse, was sunk and tubed, to the depth of 220 feet. This well has been abandoned. The well at Geddes was deepened to 200 feet, and a copper tube inserted to the depth of 80 feet, without improvement in the quality of the brine.

In 1841, wooden tubing was substituted for iron and copper, and reported as preferable to either, being much cheaper and better than iron, which on account of its great weight, was apt to sink below the point intended. A tube of iron, 245 feet long, 14 inches diameter and eight inches bore, weighed 18,000 pounds. There can be no danger of rot in wooden tubes. Reservoirs were erected at an expense of \$15,000.

The following table will show the number of bushels of salt inspected in the town of Salina, from the several reports of superintendents, being all that have come to our hand:

Salt inspected for the year	1805,	154,071 bushels.
"	" 1807,	159,563 "
"	" 1808,	165,448 "
"	" 1812,	221,011 "
"	" 1813,	223,712 "
"	" 1814,	226,000 "
"	" 1815,	295,215 "
"	" 1816,	322,058 "
"	" 1817,	348,234 "

Duties, previous to 1817, 3 cents per bushel, after which the duties were increased to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents per bushel. From 1817 to 1825, reports were made to the Commissioners of the Canal Fund.

Salt inspected for the year 1824,	827,162 bushels.
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Salt inspected for the year	1825,	768,188	"
"	" 1826,	827,508	"
"	" 1827,	983,410	"
"	" 1828,	1,160,888	"
"	" 1829,	1,291,280	"
"	" 1830,	1,435,446	"
"	" 1831,	1,514,037	"
"	" 1832,	1,652,985	"
"	" 1833,	1,838,646	"
Duties 6 cts. per bush. from	1834,	1,943,252	"
"	" 1835,	2,209,867	"
"	" 1836,	1,912,858	"
"	" 1837,	2,161,287	"
"	" 1838,	2,575,033	"
"	" 1839,	2,864,718	"
"	" 1840,	2,622,305	"
"	" 1841,	3,340,769	"
"	" 1842,	2,291,903	"
"	" 1843,	3,127,500	"
"	" 1844,	4,003,554	"
"	" 1845,	3,762,358	"
"	" 1846,	3,833,581	"
Duties 1 ct. per bush. from	1847,	3,951,351	"
_____ "	" — 1848,	4,737,126	"

The several Superintendents of the Onondaga Salt Springs and their periods of office, are as follows, viz. :

William Stevens, appointed	20th June,	1797
Sheldon Logan,	" February,	1801
Asa Danforth,	" October,	1801
William Kirkpatrick,	" April,	1806
Thomas H. Rawson,	" March,	1808
Nathan Stewart,	" June,	1809
John Richardson,	" February,	1810
William Kirkpatrick,	" March,	1811
Nehemiah H. Earll,	" February,	1831
Rial Wright,	"	1835
Thomas Spencer,	"	1841

68,188	"	Rial Wright,	appointed	1843
327,508	"	Enoch Marks,	"	1845
83,410	"	Robert Gere,	"	1848

Deputy Superintendents: Orris Curtis, Cyrel Hunt, from 1797 to 1801; Thomas Wheeler, John Rogers, 1801 to 1806; Thomas Wheeler, Arick Southerland, 1806 to 1808; Peter Lynes, 1809; none in 1810; Thomas Wheeler, David Stewart, Michael Mead, 1811 to 1823. After 1823, inspectors were appointed by the Governor and Senate, and are as follows: Simeon Ford, Engineer from 1824 to 1826; Inspectors: Augustus Wheaton, 1823 to 1826; John Maynard, 1827 to 1828; John Grinnell, 1829 to 1830; Matthew Van Vleck, 1831 to 1833; Thomas Rose, 1834 to 1835; James M. Allen, 1836 to 1840; Henry W. Allen, 1841 to 1843; H. G. Beach, 1844 to 1845; Jesse McKinley, 1846 to 1847; after which this office was abolished.

It requires about thirty gallons of the brine now used, to produce a bushel of salt; it formerly required over forty. One cord of wood used as fuel, will produce forty bushels of salt. Thirty bushels was considered a good yield, with brine formerly obtained. We are informed by the present Superintendent, that the present erections and conveniences possess the capability of furnishing over 6,000,000 of bushels annually.

The whole number of salt works in operation at this time, (1848) on the salt springs reservation, is 170; number of men engaged in boiling, about 400; in packing, 200; on coarse salt fields, 75; different offices, 34; sinking wells, &c., 15; getting out and boring logs, 20; engaged in procuring wood, about 900; for other purposes, 600; total, 2,414; besides at least 1000 horses. An average of over 1000 cords of wood are daily consumed in the several works when in operation.

There are now in operation, about 1,493,000 superficial feet of vats for solar evaporation. We are informed by the late Superintendent, Thomas Spencer, Esq., that the steam works are generally abandoned.

An experiment is now (1848) going on, in the trial of hard

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coal, which is likely to succeed. It is estimated that good coal can be delivered at the several works, at less than five dollars per ton; and that a ton of coal, if the experiment should prove successful, will exceed two cords of wood as fuel. Wood being worth about three dollars and fifty cents, makes a saving of about two dollars for every forty bushels of manufactured salt.\*

About one hundred and twenty acres of land are occupied with vats, which produce annually about 200,000 bushels of coarse salt.

Measures are in prospect for enlarging this branch of business, which for want of room cannot at present be very much extended.

Originally the salt springs reservation comprised an extensive tract of land, exceeding 15,000 acres. It was supposed that this tract was more than would ever be needed for the manufacture of salt. Accordingly an act was passed March, 1820, directing the Commissioners of the Land Office to cause the reservation to be surveyed into lots and sold, providing that they should reserve such lands as in their opinion should ever be necessary and useful for the future extension of said manufactories. Pursuant to this law, two public sales were held of those lands, one in the year 1822, and the other in 1827, at which the entire reservation was disposed of, excepting about five hundred and fifty acres. Of this quantity remaining, about eighty acres are occupied with fine salt works. One hundred and fifty acres were afterwards set apart to individuals, who have made arrangements to cover it with coarse salt vats, so that there is at present only about one hundred to one hundred and fifty acres unappropriated and eligible for salt works, the remainder being too broken or

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\* Since the above was prepared, Mr. Spencer has erected a new building two hundred and fifty-six feet long, forty-four feet wide, with eighty kettles of one hundred and twenty gallons each, with express reference to using coal instead of wood, in manufacturing salt. Between the chimney and kettles are placed three large pans, twenty feet long, ten feet wide, and four feet deep, for the purpose of precipitating impurities before the brine is admitted into the kettles.

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swampy for manufacturing purposes. It is to be regretted that the great magnitude of the salt business could not have been foreseen, as more of public land will soon become necessary for the increasing wants of the public.

There are three modes of manufacturing salt practiced at the Onondaga Salt Springs :

First, and by far the largest amount, is made by rapid boiling in kettles. Second, by solar evaporation in wooden vats. Third. By evaporation with artificial heat, (lately abandoned.)

By the first process from twenty to eighty iron kettles are set in long arches in two parallel rows, firmly fixed in brick work, constituting what is usually termed a "*block*." These kettles are usually of the capacity of about one hundred gallons each. Between the two rows of kettles thus set, on top of the arches above the level of the kettles, runs a long wooden tube, from which is a conduit to each separate kettle. This tube connects with a reservoir, with which each manufactory is provided, out side the salt house. From the reservoir, the kettles are filled with brine, which is made to boil.

So soon as ebullition commences, the water changes color, becomes turbid, and the impurities begin to precipitate. These are repeatedly removed by large iron pans, covering the bottom of the kettles, called *bittern ladles*, with one of which each kettle is now provided. A portion of these calcareous impurities, however, adheres to the sides and bottom of the kettles, which soon forms a solid coating called *pan scale*, and at intervals, from six to ten days, has to be "*pecked out*," for if allowed to remain, it essentially impedes the boiling process. Very soon after this calcareous matter is deposited, crystals of salt begin to shoot out and sink to the bottom, and this continues till a greater part of the water is evaporated. The salt is now *scooped* out into baskets, with one of which each kettle is supplied, where it remains over the kettles to drain off the brine it contains, till quite dry. From the baskets it is removed to bins, where, after cooling, it is ready for the hands of the packer. This concludes the work of the manufacturer.

The second process is by solar evaporation. A series of wooden vats are constructed about four feet from the ground, elevated on piles. They are about eighteen feet wide, carried to any convenient length, and about one foot in depth. This first described tier receives the brine, conducted to it by wooden tubes from the great reservoirs near the wells; here it is allowed to remain till the impurities have subsided. The brine is then drawn off into another tier of vats of similar size and construction, which are about a foot or foot and a half lower than the former.

In this second tier, the brine is left to chrystalize. The whole process is extremely simple. By exposure, the water evaporates, and as soon as saturated, small crystals of salt begin to shoot out on the surface. Their first appearance is not unlike a drop of melted tallow, let fall upon a surface of cold water. These particles accumulate and precipitate themselves to the bottom of the vats in large quadrangular and hexangular crystals, which are the purest salt, and when the process is completed, is hard, dry, and of a beautiful white color. From fissures in the vats are formed stalactites and stalagmites, of the most perfect whiteness, sometimes several inches in diameter. Of course the greatest quantity of this salt can be made in the driest seasons, and the principal season is from May to September. The process of evaporation is greatly retarded by a humid atmosphere. To prevent embarrassment which would ensue from rain, roofs are constructed to cover the vats, which may be removed as occasion requires. Consequently it requires a space with frames to support them, a little more than equal to the vats. Like all the operations of nature, this is perfectly simple and produces the purest salt, and the nearer all artificial modes for the separation of water from salt can approximate to this, the better article will be manufactured.

The third process, which has been carried on to some extent, but which on account of its too great expense, has been discontinued, is like this; large iron vats were employed, into which brine was conducted and subjected to a moderate degree

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of heat, either applied directly to the vats or by means of tubes through which steam was made to pass. In this way salt of great purity can be made, little if any inferior to that obtained by solar evaporation.

Besides the above named modes of manufacturing salt, are the works for preparing and grinding table and dairy salt. These are four in number, carried on by William A. Porter, Warner H. Porter, and J. P. Haskins, of Salina, and the Hope Factory at Syracuse. They are all arranged on much the same plan, and the machinery of each is driven by a steam engine. The best of salt is selected for grinding, and when prepared for market, is thought by good judges to be inferior to none. The operation and process of the manufacture of ground salt is perfectly simple, and scarcely needs illustration. The salt in the first instance is wheeled on to an elevated platform or way, to a spacious hopper, raised some eight or ten feet above the ground. From the hopper it falls down upon the "*drier*" or vat, about twenty-five feet long by eight or ten feet broad. Underneath the drier is a flue leading from the furnace by which the boilers are heated, and here the salt is drawn forward by a "*rake*," and thoroughly dried. It is then carried up by elevators emptying into a hopper, and ground; afterwards it is again carried by another string of elevators to a convenient bin, where two boys receive it as fast as it falls, and who weigh and pack it in small bags which contain each twenty pounds; formerly each bag contained twenty-eight pounds. The salt is now ready for market, and is inspected and carried to all parts of the country, as the demand requires. The ground salt is packed while warm, and as it runs from the stones is lively like dry sand. If allowed to become cold it takes a much larger bag to contain the same quantity by weight. For the dairy and for culinary purposes, salt is considered to be greatly improved by grinding.

Lime is the principal ingredient made use of in accelerating the precipitation of impurities. It is sometimes cast into the kettles, but oftener it is sprinkled in the reservoirs where



it mixes with these heterogeneous ingredients, and the impure mass subsides to the bottom.

There are about twenty-five miles of aqueduct logs from the several wells and reservoirs, for conveying brine to the several works and vats. There are about 1,600,000 gallons of brine daily used in the manufacture of salt. There are seven wells, from one hundred and eighty to three hundred and twenty feet deep, from which water is drawn by as many pumps, six of which are driven by water power, and one at Liverpool by steam, capable of throwing up at least 45,000 gallons of brine per hour.\*

The expense of a salt block and fixtures entire for fifty kettles is about three thousand dollars, and the expense for erecting an acre of vats is about fifteen hundred dollars.

The boiling works are carried on from one hundred and fifty to two hundred and fifty days in the year, though some few are conducted through the whole year.

The following is from Dr. Beck's "Brine Springs of Onondaga." (N. Y. S. Nat. His. Mineralogy, page 106.)

"The temperature of the brine at the Syracuse well as it passes from the tube into the reservoir, is  $51^{\circ}$  F. It has a sparkling appearance as it discharges itself, changing the color of iron.

The specific gravity of brine taken from this well is 1.10499, at  $60^{\circ}$  F. The amount of dry solid matter in 1,000 grains of the same brine, is 139.53 grains. The following are the results of his analysis:

Carbonate of lime,	0,14
Sulphate of lime,	5,69
Chloride of calcium,	0,83
Chloride of magnesium,	0,46
Chloride of sodium or common salt,	132,93
Oxide of iron,	0,02
Carbonic acid, holding in solution carbonate of lime,	0,07

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\* A new well was sunk in 1848, at Liverpool, which is said to be about three per cent. stronger than any water yet found.

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Water, with a trace of organic matter and bromine, 860,40  
From another well of stronger brine, he remarks: "The following will express, with sufficient minuteness, for all practical purposes, the composition of this brine in 1000 parts, viz: "

Common salt, 173,50

Various impurities, 8,50

Water, 818,00

This will not essentially vary from the brine now in common use throughout the reservation.

The pumps, when in full operation, will force up each from one hundred to one hundred and fifty gallons of brine per minute.

The foreign substances or impurities are composed principally of sulphate of lime, slightly colored by oxide of iron, which any one can see in its mixed state by visiting the coarse salt fields, where beautiful specimens are sometimes found to adorn the cabinets of the curious. These constitute also the bitters of the boilers.

The quality of brine is greatly increased by recent borings so that the constant supply is now 75° to 80°, allowing pure water to be 0, and saturated brine 100°, without apparent diminution from use.

The shores of the Onondaga Lake, at an early period of the settlement of the country, were composed of soft, spongy bog, into which a pole could be thrust to an almost interminable depth. Since the clearing up of the hills in the neighborhood, sand, gravel and other substances, have been washed down, and by the action of the waves, have become so solid, that loaded teams can now be driven along the beach, without making scarcely any indentation, while but forty years ago, the same ground could only be traversed by flat bottomed boats. There are indisputable evidences all along the western banks, that at some previous time, the surface of the lake must have been some sixty or eighty feet higher than it is at present.

The marl in which this lake is situated, is continually accumulating. Myriads of shells of the Family, LIMNIADÆ, Ge-

nus, PLANORBIS, are yearly gathered for the construction of ornaments to grace the boards of the wealthy.

There is a singularity about the "salt lake," which has, we believe, hitherto been unnoticed. The water along the shores, for the distance of from twenty to thirty rods from its margin, is very shallow, so that in most places a person can wade in nearly the whole distance without any considerable inconvenience, after which, there is an almost perpendicular descent of from thirty to fifty feet; then the bottom assumes a basin-like form, deepening towards the center. The common depth is about eighty feet, but towards the outlet it is said to be over two hundred feet deep. It is singular that this lake, although surrounded almost entirely by salt springs, should itself be perfectly fresh.

The most prevalent opinion is, that somewhere in the vicinity of this lake, or perhaps under it, is a vast body of fossil salt, from which the brine springs proceed. Some are of opinion that nature has some vast and inexhaustible laboratory constantly at work, sending forth this valuable mineral, for the good of man. Others again, are of opinion, that crystals are constantly forming in the porous saliferous rock, common in this vicinity; and others again, that salt may be existing in insulated cavities, in the surrounding hills, through which the fresh water percolating, dissolves it, and at length makes a deposit in the great salt basin around and beneath the lake. Some have supposed that at some ancient period, while the sea yet covered the earth, a volcanic eruption burst forth which formed the chasm of the ancient Onondaga valley, and by its great heat evaporated a vast quantity of seawater, by which large bodies of fossil salt were deposited leaving the fixed and solid materials in accumulated heaps, which have ever since been wasting away, and are now continually supplying our country with salt. We are inclined to no particular theory. Whether the heat of a volcano has volatilized and dissipated a large body of salt water, and left mountains or smaller insulated bodies of fossil salt; or whether some still undiscovered chemistry of nature, is at work elaborating salt

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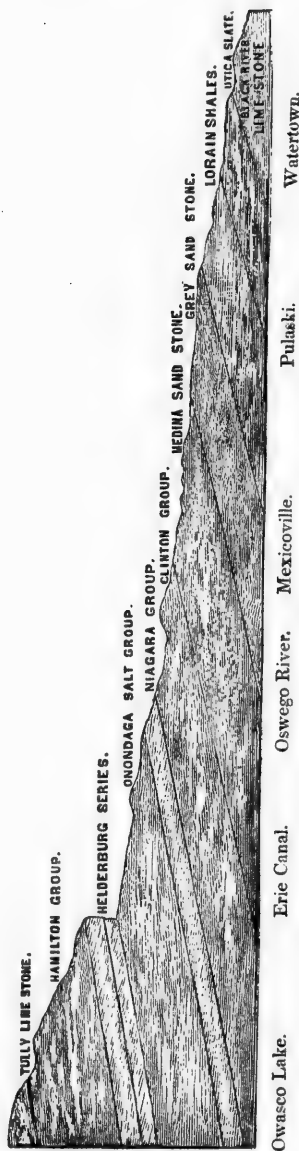
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from the various substances in the earth; or whether some subterranean passage connects with the ocean, is not for us to inquire. It is enough that it is here, and that for untold ages it has probably impregnated the copious streams which flow through the Onondaga valley, and our only fear is, that it will not always be proof against the wastes, depredations and ravages of time, and its quality and quantity remain forever undiminished. Mr. Vanuxem, (Nat. Hist. N. Y., Geology, 3d District, page 241,) says of the Onondaga Lake—"It is the remains of an ancient and deep excavation in the Onondaga salt group, of which Onondaga valley forms the southern part; all of which has been filled up with sand, gravel, etc., except the part occupied by the lake. The bottom of the lake, and its sides, are covered with lake marl, showing a thickness of more than six feet, the marl of the lake insulating the salt water of the reservoir from the fresh water of the lake. The greater part of the surface portion of the lake is excavated in the red shale, the lower part of the whole of it, extending into its mass."

The primary formation of the Onondaga valley, as compared with its present surface, is of vast importance. The bottom of this ancient valley is composed of red sandstone, which "*crops out*" in the vicinity of Lake Ontario. Over this is a tenacious clay or hard-pan, which retains the salt water. Above this, are the several strata of alluvion composed of gravel, sand, chocolate colored clay, marl and black swamp muck; and it is not till the lowest stratum is perforated that the salt water is found in its greatest purity and strength, running in subterranean rills, sometimes forcing itself to the surface of the marsh by numerous orifices. The purest brine is found in the deepest borings, for the reason that the particles held in solution are of greater specific gravity. The rocks composing the several strata of this region all have a southern "*dip*," and will be best illustrated by the accompanying diagrams, which give a perceptive view of the Onondaga salt basin and the Onondaga Lake.

GEOLOGICAL PROFILE OF ROCKS AND THEIR DIP, AS THEY CROP OUT IN ONONDAGA AND  
OSWEGO COUNTIES, EXHIBITING THEIR DIFFERENT CHARACTERS,  
STRATA AND ELEVATION.



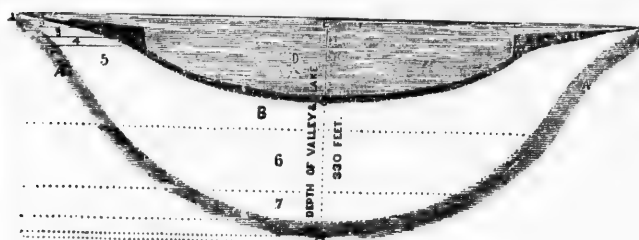
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TRANSVERSE SECTION OF THE ANCIENT ONONDAGA VALLEY AND THE PRESENT LAKE. ALSO, THE DIFFERENT STRATA OF ALLUVION, AS EXHIBITED BY BORING A WELL AT SYRACUSE.



1. Black muck, five feet. 2. Marl, five feet. 3. Blue clay, five feet. 4. Fine sand, three feet. 5. Gravel, alternating from coarse to fine, one hundred and forty feet. 6. Dark brown sand, one hundred and fifty-five feet. 7. Gravel, compact and cemented, twenty feet. 8. Hard-pan, the primary formation or bottom of the valley. A, A, A. Sides and bottom of ancient valley excavated in red shale. B, B. Alluvion filling up the valley. C. Lake marl, isolating the salt water from the fresh. D. Onondaga Lake. E. Surface of the lake.

In this vast basin, without an outlet, lies our immense brine reservoir; a wonder to the world, an unbounded source of wealth to the State, and of utility to its inhabitants.

DR. WILLIAM KIRKPATRICK, who held the office of Superintendent of the Onondaga Salt Springs, twenty-two years, twenty of which were consecutive, and who was noted for his vigilance as a public officer, and for his honesty, capability, and punctuality as a business man, deserves in connection with this memoir, a passing notice. William Kirkpatrick, was born in the town of Amwell, Huntingdon County, New-Jersey, in November, 1768. He was a son of the Rev. William Kirkpatrick, a Presbyterian minister, who died soon after the birth of his son. The son was a graduate of Princeton College, New-Jersey, and studied medicine with Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia. He commenced the practice of medicine at Whites-town, 1795, and continued there about ten years. In 1806, he came to Salina as Superintendent of the Salt Springs.

Although it was generally understood when Dr. Kirkpatrick commenced the practice of medicine in the county of Oneida,

that his professional education was of the highest order, and that nothing stood in the way of his attaining a commanding position as one of the most scientific and skilful physicians of the age in which he lived, if he had devoted himself to the practice, with that assiduity and enthusiasm, which are so essential to success in any of the learned professions; yet, it was unfortunately true, that his nervous temperament was of such a peculiar and sensitive character, as to unfit him in a great degree, for the practical duties of a physician. Although he had pursued the study of medicine with great diligence and effect, and had attained in the closet, all the knowledge which could very well be acquired by reading and thought; yet, when he was called upon, standing by the sick bed, to apply his skill and learning to cases of actual suffering and disease, he soon discovered that his feelings of sympathy for the afflicted patient were so acute, as in many cases to materially affect that self possession and calm observation of the symptoms so vitally essential in determining, as well the true nature of the disease itself, as the mode to be adopted for its cure or alleviation. The effect of this peculiarity of temperament was, (as might be expected) to cause in the mind of Dr. Kirkpatrick, at an early period of his medical practice, a dislike of the profession, which not only continued through the remainder of his life, but after a few years, led to its total abandonment as a means of living.

The society at Utica and Whitesboro during the period in which Dr. Kirkpatrick resided there, although small, was in many instances, of a refined, intellectual and literary character; and he was never more happy than in those days, when in the company of his intelligent friends and neighbors, he had an opportunity to converse on the literary topics of the day, and to impart and receive that intellectual instruction, in which he so greatly delighted. Although he still continued to practice as a physician, yet he rather declined than sought an increase of business, and gradually withdrew from the active duties of his profession, except in cases of a few private friends and families, who would not consent to surrender their claims

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Dr. Kirkpatrick commenced life, and continued until his death, a Republican, (or as it is now termed, a Democrat,) in politics. As he possessed a very active mind and ardent temperament, he soon embarked in the political controversies of the day, and ever afterwards took a deep interest in such matters. Whilst living in Oneida County he was elected a member of the tenth Congress, (1808 and 1809,) for the eleventh district.

Although he made no pretensions to parliamentary speaking, and did not therefore assume a prominent position before the public, yet he was greatly respected at Washington, as an intelligent, educated and high-minded man, and during that period formed an intimate acquaintance and friendship with many of the most distinguished men of the day, who then occupied places in the National Councils, and with some of whom he continued to correspond for many years afterwards. As an illustration of this, a little reminiscence may be given. When in Congress, Dr. Kirkpatrick became the intimate personal and political friend of Wm. H. Crawford, of Georgia, then a Senator from that State, and afterwards Secretary of the Treasury, under Mr. Monroe, and a prominent candidate for the Presidency in 1824. Whilst Mr. Crawford was Secretary, an application was made by many of the prominent citizens of this State, for the establishment of a branch of the United States Bank at Albany, and among other names appearing on the application, was that of Dr. Kirkpatrick. This paper was transmitted in the first instance to the Secretary of the Treasury, with a request that he should send it forward to the directors of the parent bank at Philadelphia. Mr. Crawford, in doing so, wrote upon the application, in substance as follows: "Among the many names to this application, I find that of Dr. Wm. Kirkpatrick. I can say with great pleasure, that I know him well, and a more honorable, high-minded and intelligent gentleman I am not acquainted with."

He closed his Congressional term in 1809, and was reap-



pointed Superintendent of the Onondaga Salt Springs, 1811, and held his office till 1831. Upon his reappointment, he removed to Salina, where he continued to reside, until his death, in 1832.

The few adventurers, who up to this period had dared the inhalation of the pestilential miasma of the marsh, and were willing to wade through its mud and water, in attempting to earn a scanty pittance for themselves and families, had usually but little pretension to that intelligence or refinement of intellect and manners which so peculiarly distinguished the individual who had been chosen to protect the public interest and collect the revenue to be derived from this invaluable fountain, which in its subsequent and still extending developments, has already caused the building up of a wealthy and populous town.

As it respects Dr. Kirkpatrick, it might well be supposed that the singular and strongly marked transition which had occurred in his life, from the polished and intellectual society in which he had previously moved, to the cheerless and almost semi-barbarous condition of things then existing at Salina, would have had the effect of producing disgust and despondency on his part. But this was not so—he entered upon the discharge of his new duties with alacrity of spirits and kind feelings. He lost no time in making himself acquainted, not only with the present state of the manufacturing operations, but also with the persons employed in the business, and he took early measures to increase the State revenue, by judicious improvements, whilst he was disposed in every way in his power to aid the worthy and industrious manufacturers.

During the whole life of Dr. Kirkpatrick, after his removal to Salina, he continued to cultivate his literary taste, by an intimate reading of all the standard works of the day, and particularly of the English and Scotch Reviews, for the greater part of which he was a regular subscriber; indeed, to works of this character, he devoted a large portion of his leisure time. He was of a joyous and pleasant temperament, and delighted to sit down with friends of his own habits of

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thought and reading, and converse upon the current topics of the day. He continued also through his life, to be an ardent politician of unswerving fidelity to party obligations, and denounced the least violation of party faith, as a crime of almost unpardonable magnitude. He was in mind, thought and feelings, a gentleman. In his manner, he had an easy, dignified and graceful address, by which the most casual observer would have distinguished him in a crowd, as a man who, from habits and association, had always moved in refined society; and still, he was free from haughtiness or pride, and as accessible at all times to the most humble laborer, as to the highest dignitary of the land.

As one of the remarkable traits in the character of Dr. Kirkpatrick, it may be added, that with the renowned Dr. Johnson, he had a morbid and awful horror of death. He has frequently remarked to the writer of this brief sketch, that the thought of dying and of death—of passing from this sublunary state to the mysterious world beyond the grave—of the body instinct with warmth and life—and all its complicated and beautiful machinery becoming cold and inanimate, —placed in the earth as food for worms,—

“To lie in cold obstruction and to rot,”—

filled his soul with dismay and terror.

In the summer of 1832, and with but very few hours of premonition, the dread king of terrors, by his most terrible vicegerent, the cholera, approached his bed-side, and beckoned him away. He looked upon the face of the pale spectre with composure and apparent fearlessness, and seemed to have summoned in the last hour, a fortitude of mind which he did not before know he possessed. When he became assured of the presence of the pestilence in his own person, and that he could not live but a few hours, he summoned his beloved wife to his bed-side, and with the composure of one about to enjoy a peaceful sleep for a time, or take a short journey, gave her a brief history of a few matters of business resting in personal recollection, and a few words of affectionate condolence, and then resigned himself to his fate with apparent submission.

He died on the 2d day of September, 1832, in the 65th year of his age, and was buried at Salina. He left twin sons, William and Donald, now (1849) nineteen years of age, who reside with their mother, in Cato, Cayuga County.

Such is a very brief and imperfect notice of a good and worthy man. He had no enemies; it is impossible he should have had any; for, he never entertained an unkind wish in respect to any human being.\*

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\* For the above sketch, the author is obliged to J. G. Forbes, Esp., an intimate friend of Dr. Kirkpatrick.

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## CHAPTER XIII.

## ERIE CANAL—JAMES GEDDES.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE HON. JAMES GEDDES—ERIE CANAL—HYDRAULIC CEMENT.

JAMES GEDDES was born on the 22d day of July, 1763, near Carlisle, in the State of Pennsylvania. His father and mother were both descended from Scotch families, and the first accents of his infant lips were uttered in broad Scotch.

His father was a farmer in very respectable circumstances, and gave his children all the advantages of education that the country then afforded; and every means at the command of the subject of this memoir, was made the most of, in storing his mind with useful knowledge.

While a youth, following the plow, he carried in his pocket a book; and when his team stopped to rest, he perused its contents. In after life he frequently observed, that this reading in the field was of great advantage to him, as he had full time to digest all that he read while holding the plow, and later in life could draw from these stores treasured up in his juvenile years, with pleasure and profit. He studied mathematics under the charge of a Mr. Oliver, who was a thoroughly educated man.

Languages he studied without masters, and he became a belles letter scholar of the first order. In fact few men ever acquire a knowledge of the English language that equalled his.

At an early age he visited the State of Kentucky. It was



then necessary to cross the Alleghany Mountains in large companies, for protection against the Indians; and unburied human bones were seen at various places along the path they followed.

In Kentucky, slavery had already established itself; and having an insuperable repugnance to that institution, he determined not to locate himself where it appeared that this evil was long to exist. From the time of arriving at his majority until the age of thirty, he employed himself in teaching school, traveling, and improving his mind.

In the year 1793, the fame of the salt springs induced him to visit the county of Onondaga, (then Herkimer.) So well was he pleased with the prospects this region offered, that he returned home and organized a company for the manufacture of salt; and the next year, 1794, came by the way of Seneca Lake, with the necessary kettles, and early in the spring commenced the manufacture of salt, at the place now known as the village of Geddes. He lived there four years. In 1798 he moved to lands he had purchased of the State, in the present town of Camillus, where he lived the residue of his life.

In May, 1799, he married Miss Lucy Jerome, daughter of Timothy Jerome, Esq., of the town of Fabius, who survives him.

Soon after becoming a citizen of this county, the public demanded his services, and he filled most if not all of the important stations in his town at various times. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1800, by the Council of Appointment. In 1804 he was elected a member of the Legislature.

Soon after his coming into this country, he was employed by the Surveyor General, as one of his assistants, and he devoted himself to the profession of surveying and engineering, until age disqualified him from the fatigue of out-door labors. His maps, plots and field books, deposited in the Surveyor General's Office, show him to be a man of great accuracy, and his accompanying remarks the sagacity and penetration of his mind.

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It was as an engineer that he became most known to the public, and it was as such that he did the State most service.

The project of connecting the waters of Lake Erie with the Hudson River, became an important one. Mr. Weston, a celebrated engineer from England, had examined the Oswego River, and other water courses, with a view to improving their navigation; and among men of enlarged views the scheme became an engrossing topic. Mr. Geddes, at an early period, enlisted in the matter, and commenced with ardor the gathering of facts. In 1804, the Surveyor General said to him, that Gouverneur Morris had mentioned to him the project of "tapping Lake Erie." The Surveyor General considered this "a romantic thing,"\* but not so the man to whom he communicated the crude, undigested thought. He knew that Mr. Weston had reported the Oswego River, from the falls to Lake Ontario, as "hardly susceptible of improvement, by means of canaling," and if there was a way that the waters of the upper lakes could be led across the country without going down to the level of Ontario, and then rising to the summit again at Rome, that vast results must grow from it, and at once his untiring industry and energy was put in requisition.

Maps were examined, surveyors were enquired of, and every means within his reach resorted to, to ascertain the topography of the country through which, since has been constructed the Erie Canal.

In 1807, Judge Joshua Forman was elected to the Legislature from this county, upon the express understanding that he would try to procure the appropriation of money to make examinations of the country. No man could have been better qualified than was Judge Forman to succeed. A man of eloquence, ardent, and peculiarly calculated to make men think as he himself thought upon any subject, he did succeed, and as was understood, the Surveyor General, who had the selection of the man to make the surveys, (if he did not himself do it,) appointed Mr. Geddes. He "entered with enthusiasm

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\* See Canal Laws, vol. 1, page 39.

upon the task assigned him by the Surveyor General," and made surveys, not only of the Oneida and Oswego Rivers, and around the Falls of Niagara, but he reported a route, which was, in the language of the Surveyor General, in his letter to Mr. Darley, of February 25th, 1822, "almost precisely in the line, which, after repeated, elaborate and expensive examinations, has been finally adopted."

To quote further from Mr. De Witt's letter, "the favorable light in which the report of this year's work presented the projected enterprise, after encountering prejudices from different sources, and oppositions made for various reasons, induced the Legislature, in 1810, to organize a board of commissioners, with powers and means to prosecute the business."

This survey furnished the necessary information to justify prudent men to commit themselves in favor of a canal; and Mr. Clinton, grasping with his powerful intellect at once the vast advantages of the scheme, embarked in it with uncompromising zeal, and by his elevated position in the State, was enabled to render such assistance as ensured success.

After the war with England was ended, the Canal Commissioners sent to that country to secure the services of Mr. Weston, or some other engineer of reputation, to take charge of and lay out the canals, but they failed entirely, and it became necessary to rely upon their own inexperienced countrymen. In 1816, they appointed five principal engineers, placing Mr. Geddes at the head of the list, who throughout the progress of the work, maintained a high standing as a civil engineer, and whose labors and opinions were most favorably estimated by the Canal Commissioners, as their reports in various instances will show.

In 1822, the State authorities of Ohio applied to Governor Clinton to select a proper person to make the necessary explorations for their canal from the Ohio River to Lake Erie; and he, in the most flattering manner, recommended Mr. Geddes as the most competent man in the service of the State. Mr. Geddes accepted proposals from Ohio, and assumed the responsibility of Chief Engineer of the Ohio Canal. This

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duty he discharged to the perfect satisfaction of the authorities of the State of Ohio.

In 1827, Mr. Geddes was employed by the general government, (associated with Mr. Roberts,) in the location of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. In 1828, he was engaged in locating the Pennsylvania Canals, and in the same year he was appointed by the general government, to examine the country in reference to the connection of the waters of the Tennessee and Altamaha Rivers, in the States of Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. This appointment he declined, on account of distance from home, and his advanced age.

In 1809, Mr. Geddes was appointed an associate Justice, and in 1812, a Judge of Onondaga County Common Pleas. In 1813, he was elected a member of the 13th Congress, and in 1821 he was again elected a member of the Legislature of this State. He was elected to Congress by the Federal party, but belonged to that branch of the party who favored the vigorous prosecution of the then existing war, and it is proper to say, that he voted for every appropriation that was made during his term, for carrying on the war with vigor.

The infirmities of age crept upon him apace, and during the last year of his life, his constitution gave way rapidly, and he closed his earthly career at his residence, in the town of Camillus, on the 19th of August, 1838, being a little more than seventy-five years of age. He was the father of seven children, only one of them surviving him—all the rest having died without issue. The Hon. George Geddes, of Fairmount, now a member of the Senate of this State, is the survivor.

Perhaps it is safe to say that no man who had been as much in public service, and who had come in contact with so great and conflicting interests, represented by men so different in capacity and character, ever died, leaving fewer enemies. His reputation for integrity, probably was never questioned, even by those whose opinions differed from his own. To be just in all his ways, was apparently a part of his nature, and the least lack of moral integrity, once detected by him in a man, destroyed his confidence in that man forever. It was

his good fortune to live to great age, and enjoy almost uninterrupted good health. All his time was most dilligently improved; and such was the extent of his knowledge, that he was greatest in the estimation of those who saw him most, and who had the best means of observing him critically. Integrity, industry, perseverance and sound judgment, were prominent traits of his character.

Although a self educated man, relying entirely on his own resources, without the aid of artificial helps, he became eminent in the profession of his adoption, and by his talents and zeal for the public welfare, secured for himself a reputation that might well be envied.

He early stood forth among the hardy and honorable pioneers of our county, as one of the main pillars of its support, and by his acts has largely contributed to its advancement and prosperity.

His name will ever be associated with the noblest works of the age, and his fame will descend with admiration to those who shall succeed.

ERIE CANAL.—The subject of connecting the navigable waters of Lake Erie with the Hudson River, by improving the inland navigation of the State of New-York, and of the feasibility of a chain of water communication from the western to the eastern portion of the State, was discussed in private circles at a period prior to the American Revolution; and during that time, the measure was considered of vast importance to the country, by those who foresaw her future greatness. General Washington alludes to this subject in his official letters, and again in a letter to the Marquis of Chestallux, in 1784, says: "I nave lately made a tour through the Lakes George and Champlain as far as Crown Point, thence returning to Schenectady, thence up the Mohawk to Fort Schuyler, crossed over to Wood Creek which empties into Oneida Lake, and afterwards communicates with Lake Ontario; I then traversed the country to the head of the east branch of the Susquehanna and viewed the Lake Otsego and the portage

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between that lake and Canajoharie. I was struck with the vast inland navigation we possess—would to God we may have wisdom to improve those benefits with which Providence has so kindly favored us." It was a matter that began seriously to attract and engross the attention of sagacious, enlarged and liberal minds during the years from 1784 to 1800. Christopher Colles, a native of Ireland in moderate circumstances, who settled in New-York before the revolution, was probably the first man who started suggestions with respect to canals and inland improvements in Western New-York. De Witt Clinton himself declares this fact, saying: "He was an ingenious mathematician and mechanician. His memorials to the Legislature were presented in 1784, '85, and met with a favorable report, although some thought his scheme visionary. The Legislature appropriated one hundred and twenty-five dollars to enable him to prosecute his examination of the Mohawk river." He again appeared before the Legislature and the public with a proposition to form an association to improve the inland navigation between Oswego and Albany. Although these propositions were sensible and well founded, yet no public action crowned his efforts. He published a pamphlet in 1785, entitled "proposals for the speedy settlement of the frontier of Western New-York, by which the internal trade, will be *increased*; the country will be settled and the frontier secured." As an earnest of what was contemplated, the Legislature of the State of New-York passed an act, March 24th, 1791, directing the commissioners of the land office to cause to be explored, and the necessary survey to be made of the ground between the Mohawk River at or near Fort Stanwix and Wood Creek, in the county of Herkimer, and to cause an estimate to be made of the probable expense of making a canal, locks, &c., and report to the Legislature at its next meeting. The sum of one hundred pounds was voted to defray the expense of this and of a similar survey in the northern part of the State.\* The commissioners

\* Abraham Hardenburgh surveyed the route under the celebrated Engineer William Weston, around the Little Falls and from Fort Stanwix to Wood Creek

reported favorably, and in March, 1792, incorporated the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company, for the purpose of opening a canal and lock navigation from the navigable waters of Hudson River, to be extended to Lake Ontario and to the Seneca Lake.

The work was to be completed throughout in fifteen years, making the waters of Wood Creek, the Oswego River, and the Seneca River, navigable. The State reserved the right of taking it to themselves at any time, by paying the cost of construction and a reasonable compensation. By some of the restrictions and limitations of the act, those who were most anxious in the matter were dissatisfied; and, at the next session of the Legislature, petitioned for an amendment of the charter, which was granted, allowing the company to construct a canal of any size they saw fit, not less than ten feet on the bottom. And the locks should be at least seventy feet long; and their charter was not to be forfeited, if water was not at certain seasons of the year, two feet deep. And the company were authorised to erect mills or other hydraulic works at such places as the water was not needed for the canal. Notwithstanding these favorable terms, the corporation did not flourish, nor the work progress. Nearly one-half of the shareholders forfeited their first instalments of stock; and, although the remaining shareholders were willing, yet they were unable to prosecute the work; and in order to do so with vigor and energy, they again prayed legislative relief. Accordingly, the Legislature in 1795, authorized the Treasurer of the State to subscribe for two hundred shares of the stock, with the privilege of voting on shares like individuals and to receive dividends of Stock, tolls, &c. Under these provisions, the

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in 1788; expenses thirty-nine pounds seventeen shillings and eight pence. The instrument first used in leveling the route of the Inland Lock Navigation Company was the same used by Judge Geddes in exploring the Erie Canal route, made by David Rittenhouse, of Philadelphia, and is now in possession of Hon George Geddes, Camillus.

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work was commenced, and the canal and locks completed around the Little Falls.\*

Again in 1796, the sum of fifteen thousand pounds was loaned them by the State, and a bond and mortgage taken on their real estate at Little Falls, for securing the payment, at an interest of six per cent. per annum. In 1797, the company required a further sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, in order to prosecute the plan, which sum was granted, and in 1800 the work was completed.

Although this improvement gave relief for the time being, and greatly aided the facilities for transportation, still as business increased with the population of the country, it was found quite insufficient for the requirements of the public. Further improvements were thought to be necessary; a canal direct from Lake Erie to the Hudson River soon became a theme of conversation and finally of serious consideration. In a casual conversation with the Surveyor General Simeon De Witt; Gouverneur Morris in 1803 remarks, "*Lake Erie must be tapped*, and the waters carried across the country to the Hudson." With thousands, the idea of a canal was scouted as wild and chimerical; still there were those, and men of comprehensive minds, who could believe and advocate the plan as feasible and worthy of adoption. But the minds of the mass of community had first to be prepared for it. With this view, Jesse Hawley, Esq., of Ontario, produced those valuable papers signed Hercules, and in 1810 Dr. Hugh Williamson, of New-York, produced several able papers, all strongly urging the merits of the canal and setting forth, in the ablest manner, the most substantial reasons why such a measure should be speedily accomplished, considering the ability of the State of New-York to successfully consummate so magnificent a project. Judge Joshua Forman, of Onondaga, became enlisted in the cause, and in 1807, was elected

\* The locks around the Little Falls were constructed under the superintendence of General Philip Schuyler, whose memory, for services rendered his country, will long be cherished with affection. He was, after the completion of the work in 1795, appointed the first president of the company, and superintendent.



a member of the Legislature by the people of Onondaga, with express reference to moving in that body the grand project of a canal.\* In 1807, President Jefferson proposed to Congress to devote a part of the public revenue to making roads and canals, and Mr. Gallatin made an able report on the subject.

On the 4th of February, 1808, carrying out the views of his constituents, Judge Forman rose in his place and called up a resolution, which had been previously submitted and ordered to lie on the table. This resolution proposed, that a joint committee should be appointed to take into consideration the propriety of exploring and causing an accurate survey to be made of the most eligible and direct route for a canal to open a communication between the tide waters of the Hudson River and Lake Erie, to the end that Congress might be enabled to appropriate such sums as should be necessary to the accomplishment of that great national object, and in case of such concurrence, that Messrs. Gold, Gilbert, German, Hogeboom and Forman, be a committee on the part of the House. The Senate concurred in the resolution, and appointed, on the part of the Senate, Messrs. Taylor, Nicholas and Ward, a committee to confer with the House. The resolution, says Judge Forman, was adopted on the ground, as expressed by several members, "*that it could do no harm, and might do some good.*" The proposition was startling, and it is said was at first received by the House with such expressions of surprise and ridicule, as are alone due to the most wild and foolish projects. It was fortunately, however, firmly sustained by Mr. Forman, who, on all occasions, stood foremost with a few friends the fearless champion of the work. But the joint committee, prepossessed in favor of the Oswego route, directed the Surveyor General to cause a survey to be made of the rivers, streams and waters, in the usual route between Hudson River and Lake Erie, and such other route as he might deem proper, thus shifting upon the Surveyor General the responsibility of countenancing a project deemed by them absurd.

\* Thos. Wheeler's letter, Onondaga Democrat, dated 14th September, 1846.

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April 11th, 1808, a law was passed authorizing the Surveyor General to draw upon the Treasury of the State, for such sum or sums as he might require to prosecute the survey contemplated in the resolutions of the joint committee, not exceeding in the whole, the sum of six hundred dollars, and this was all that was appropriated for the first survey and exploration of the grand Erie Canal. Upon this, the Surveyor General appointed James Geddes, Esq., of Onondaga, to make the survey, and in his commission and instructions to Mr. Geddes, makes these remarks: "As the provision made for the expenses of this business is not adequate to the effectual exploring of the country for this purpose, you will in the first place, examine what may appear to be the best route for a canal from Oneida Lake to Lake Ontario, in the town of Mexico, and take a level and survey of it; also whether a canal cannot be made between the Oneida Lake and Oswego, by a route in part to the west of Oswego River, so as to avoid those parts along it, where it will be impracticable to make a good navigation. The next object will be, the ground between Lakes Erie and Ontario, which must be examined with the view to determine what will be the most eligible track for a canal from below Niagara Falls to Lake Erie. If your means will admit of it, it would be desirable to have a level taken throughout the whole distance between the lakes." The Surveyor General refrains from instructing Mr. Geddes to make an interior survey, because of the inefficiency of the appropriation for that purpose.\* Mr. Geddes entered with zeal and earnestness upon his duties, and in 1809 submitted his report of three different routes. The first, a communication between Lake Oneida and Lake Ontario. Second, the Niagara River route; and third, an interior route, without descending to, or passing through Lake Ontario.

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\* Mr. Geddes' expenses exceeded the appropriation by seventy-three dollars, which sum was afterwards allowed by the Legislature, so that the whole engineer's expenses for this exploration cost the State of New-York only six hundred and seventy-three dollars, an investment made by the State, which for profit and importance, will probably never be exceeded.

In comparing the Ontario with the interior route, the report is strongly in favor of the latter. In addition, Mr. Geddes was directed to examine by inspection, a canal route from Lake Erie to Genesee River, and thence to the waters running east to the Seneca River, and gather all the information in his power, for the prosecution of the great work, should the Legislature think fit to provide for it. The report was favorable on the practicability of an interior route from Lake Erie, and it is worthy of remark that Judge Geddes' plan and route was mainly followed in the final location of the canal.\* The country from the Seneca River in the Cayuga valley, to the Mohawk River at Rome, and thence to the Hudson River, was so well known as to leave no apprehensions of insuperable difficulties. Thus by the operations of 1808, through the instrumentality of the true men of Onondaga, the fact was satisfactorily established that a canal from the Hudson River to Lake Erie, was not only practicable but practicable with uncommon facility. In January, 1809, in company with Wm. Kirkpatrick, then member of Congress from Oneida County; Judge Forman waited on President Jefferson, and informed him, that in view of his proposition to expend the surplus revenues of the nation in making roads and canals, the State of New-York had explored the route of a canal from the Hudson River to Lake Erie, and had found it practicable; and when Mr. Forman had laid all the estimates, plans, surveys, descriptions and anticipated advantages before Mr. Jefferson, and portrayed its commercial prospects and the profits which would accrue to the United States, as well as to the State of New-York, the President very coolly replied, "It is a splendid project, and may be executed, a century hence. Why, sir," said he, "here is a canal of a few miles, projected by General Washington, which, if completed would render this a fine commercial city; which has languished for many years, because the small sum of two hundred thousand dollars, necessary to complete it, cannot be ob-

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See letter to William Darley, Canal Documents, Vol. I. page 42.

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tained from the general government, or from individuals—and you talk of making a canal of 350 miles, through a wilderness—it is little short of madness to think of it at this day." (Hosack's life of Clinton, page 347.)

In 1810, so favorable and satisfactory had been the report of the engineer, James Geddes, and so much in favor was this grand project with discerning men, that the Legislature passed an act for the appointment of a Board of Commissioners composed of Gouverneur Morris, Stephen Van Rensselaer, De Witt Clinton, Simeon De Witt, William North, Thomas Eddy and Peter B. Porter, to which were afterwards added Robert R. Livingston and Robert Fulton. These gentlemen were instructed to explore the inland navigation route, and they reported favorably the next year. It is worthy of remark that the canal commissioners in casting about for competent engineers for laying out the Erie Canal, were at a loss where to apply. Supposing there was not a man in America of sufficient science and ability to accomplish the task, they opened a correspondence with an American gentleman at that time in London, authorizing him to engage William Weston, Esq., then considered the most accomplished engineer in Europe, to come over and survey the route of the canal, and proposed as a maximum salary seven thousand dollars per year. Fortunately Mr. Weston's engagements were such that he thought proper to decline. In this dilemma Benjamin Wright and James Geddes, Esqrs., held a consultation and agreed to go before the board of canal commissioners and offer to survey the canal route provided they would give them their confidence. The proposition was accepted; to them the work was assigned, and they were engaged at a salary of fifteen hundred dollars per year.\*

It may be considered a fortunate circumstance that Mr. Weston did not accept the offer of the canal commissioners. Because from the ostentation usually displayed by foreign engineers and the great expense attending their movements

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\* Correspondence of James Geddes.

the people of this frugal and republican country would have become discouraged, and it is more than probable the work would have been abandoned or at least indefinitely deferred. It is worthy of remark that the engineers employed on the Erie and Champlain Canals were Americans, except in two instances, where a French, and an Irish gentleman were employed in subordinate stations for less than a year.

Gouverneur Morris and De Wit Clinton were commissioned to proceed to Washington and present a memorial to congress, but were unsuccessful in their application to that body for assistance. In March, 1812, the commissioners again made a report "that *now* sound policy demanded that the canal should be made by the State of New-York on her own account." This year the commissioners reported estimates of the cost of building and completing the canal, cost of transportation on it when completed, probable amount of tolls to be received, revenue, importance to the State, individual opposition, the procuring and application of funds for construction, and every thing that could have a bearing upon the great question; congress was again solicited for aid, some of the States were addressed for assistance, Mr. Morris and Mr. Clinton, waited on President Madison, who, though an enthusiast personally in the matter, was nevertheless embarrassed by scruples derived from his interpretation of the constitution. Although favorable mention of the matter was made in his next succeeding message to Congress, and that body at one time entertained favorable views, still, a few days of delay was sufficient to produce a change of opinion, and the subject was dismissed. The war of 1812 caused a suspension of the project and it was not again resumed until after its close. In 1815, the subject was again revived. During the session of 1816 a memorial was presented to the Legislature signed by more than one hundred thousand individuals from New-York, and the counties through which the proposed canal should pass, calling upon its members to pass laws for the commencement and execution of the proposed canals.

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held at the Court House on the 23d of February, 1816. A preliminary meeting had been previously held, at which Judge Forman had been appointed a committee to prepare a memorial to the Legislature. This memorial was read by Judge Forman at this meeting, and approved by acclamation. A committee was appointed to circulate it throughout the county, consisting of Daniel Kellogg, of Marcellus; Gideon Wilcoxon, Camillus; Jonas C. Baldwin, Lysander; Ashbel Kellogg, Salina; John Leach, Cicero; Sylvanus Tousley, Manlius; Barnet Mooney, Hannibal; Daniel Wood, Pompey; Marcus Adams, Fabius; Asahel Roundy, Spafford; Garret Van Hoesen, Tully, and Joshua Forman, of Onondaga; adding the Chairman and Secretary. Signed, James Geddes, Chairman, Jasper Hopper, Secretary. Over three thousand names were subscribed to this memorial. The memorial was lucid, concise and forcible, and drawn up with great ability. It contemplated \$10,000,000, for the cost of the canal, covering every possible contingency. This memorial contemplated also, that the State of New-York should be charged with \$2,500,000; the United States with \$2,500,000; the State of Ohio with \$1,000,000; the city of New-York and counties contiguous to the canal \$2,000,000, and private stock holders \$2,000,000.

The Legislature authorized a loan on the credit of the State for a million of dollars, and the section from Rome to Seneca River, was fixed upon as the first to be commenced. In 1816 Judge Geddes made another report, of the state and general view of the country, from Black Rock rapid to the Cayuga marshes, and Benjamin Wright, Esq., upon the same subject, from the Cayuga marshes to Rome, and from thence through the Mohawk valley to Albany. De Witt Clinton, Stephen Van Rensselaer, Samuel Young, Joseph Elliott and Myron Holley were appointed Canal Commissioners, and were directed thoroughly to explore the route of the proposed canal, make estimates of expenses, calculations, surveys, maps, fieldbooks, plans, drafts, models, &c., and to present the same to the Legislature, within twenty days after the commencement of its next regular session, and a sum not exceeding

twenty thousand dollars was appropriated for that object. Accordingly the whole was carefully surveyed and estimates were made for the construction of a canal from Lake Erie to the Hudson River, and finally set down at five millions of dollars.

Early in the year 1817, as a last resort, Congress was again memorialized upon the subject of the New-York canals, and solicited to construct them on the authority and patronage of the United States, but without success. Thus the State of New-York was thrown entirely upon her own resources. The commissioners were every where active in gathering information. No point was left unexamined. The route was divided into three sections. The levels and surveys of the previous years were reviewed, and in order to test their accuracy and correctness, it was deemed expedient that Mr. Geddes should start at a given point on the canal line at Rome, and carry a level along the road to the east end of Oneida Lake, thence to the west end along the southern shore, and connect this level with the Onondaga Lake, and thence to the canal line, thence working east, laying off sections on said line. This was accomplished, and nine miles thus laid off into sections. Mr. Wright had carried a level along the canal line, and the commissioners remark, that when the level of Mr. Wright had been carried to the place where Mr. Geddes had terminated his line, the levels of these two engineers, which embraced a circuit from the place of departure to the place of conjunction, a distance of nearly one hundred miles, differed from each other less than one inch and a half. This result, so satisfactory, exhibits in the engineers, a degree of care, skill and precision in the delicate process of leveling, which has perhaps never been exceeded.

All things were now ready for a commencement and rapid prosecution of the work. The first contract was dated 27th June, 1817, and the remaining part of the whole middle section was under contract very soon thereafter, and on the 4th of July following, the excavation was commenced at Rome with appropriate ceremonies. The first contract was given to



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Judge John Richardson, of Cayuga. At the commencement of the ceremony, Judge Hathaway, of Rome, gave the spade to Commissioner Samuel Young, who placed it in the hands of Judge Richardson. Each presentation of the spade, was accompanied by a short and pertinent address. Judge Richardson broke the first ground, and was soon followed by several citizens and laborers, accompanied by the acclamations of thousands of spectators who had congregated, and the discharge of cannon from the United States Arsenal. It is perhaps a singular coincidence, that the first movement in the Halls of Legislation, relative to the Erie Canal, was made by a member from Onondaga,—that the first exploration was made by an engineer of Onondaga,—that the first contract was given to, and the first ground broken by a contractor, who had been several years a resident of Onondaga, and all of whom had been Judges of our County Courts, and members of the Legislature from Onondaga County. The work progressed with unusual rapidity. The zeal and perseverance of the commissioners, and the activity and industry of the contractors, was every where exerted.

In 1819 the middle section from Utica to Seneca River, including a lateral canal to Salina, about ninety-four miles, was reported by Governor Clinton, in his annual message of 1820, as completed. The animation which the completion and use of this section gave to our internal trade and intercourse, and the revenue which promised to be derived from it, inspired all the advocates of the work with renewed vigor, and many who had been its stern opposers, or silent witnesses of its progress, acknowledged the incorrectness of their views, entered heartily into the measure, and readily consented that the western and eastern sections should be completed. By the opening of this portion of the canal, the resources of Onondaga were more fully ascertained and developed. Her salt, gypsum and lime found their way to a ready market, and the produce of the agriculturist an outlet, affording more ample remuneration for his labor; a new and vigorous impulse was given to her advancement and prosperity which placed her among the first



counties of the Empire State, a position which she is destined long to enjoy. Notwithstanding these favorable results, there were still, narrow minds and selfish spirits actively employed to defeat the further progress of the work. Many judged that the income of the whole canal would not equal the portion already completed. Local feelings had to be combated, and prejudices overcome, indignities to be borne, and every species of contumely and perverseness tampered with by the friends and supporters of the plan. With a devotion above all praise, the commissioners and advocates of the work stayed not their hands, till finally, in November, A. D. 1825, a period of only eight years and four months, it was proclaimed to the world that the waters of Lake Erie were connected with those of the Hudson River, without one foot of portage, through one of the longest canals in the world; and the cost, according to the books of the Comptroller, including the Champlain Canal, was \$8,273,122 66, and is considered one of the most stupendous and magnificent works of this or any other age. Middle section of the canal cost at the rate of about \$13,000 per mile. The eastern section about \$28,000 per mile; the western about \$20,000 per mile. The illustrious Jefferson, who lived till after it was completed, declared that "it exceeded even calculation itself. New-York has anticipated by a full century, the ordinary progress of improvement." If the canal benefited the people of Onondaga, the men of Onondaga were principal promoters of the undertaking in all its incipient steps. "To the honor of originating the project of connecting the waters of the Hudson with the lakes, Mr. Clinton never made the slightest pretension. His was not the mind so narrowed by sordid envy as to claim or desire the credit belonging to others. He knew that many powerful minds had been directed to this subject, and that all these had contributed their quota to the development and perfection of the original idea of a water communication through the valley of the Mohawk to the lakes. He was aware that Washington, in his letters, Hawley, in his essays, and Forman, in his introduction of the subject into the Legislature,

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† Hosack, p

had preceded him in his inquiries, and that the united efforts of many more distinguished men, had assisted to bring forward and mature the vast enterprise."\* "Although others claimed it for him, yet Mr. Clinton never claimed for himself the original idea of the canal."†

Although Gouverneur Morris said in a casual conversation with Simeon De Witt, that "*Lake Erie must be tapped*," and had traveled and seen canals in other countries, and no doubt had bright visions of the future improvements in this country and occasionally astonished his friends by detailing them in conversation, but it was no wise probable that he viewed them as works to be accomplished in his day, or as a patriot he would have proposed the subject himself to the Legislature, of which he was a member, and brought the project into favorable notice. It was James Geddes, of Onondaga, who traversed the wilderness of western New-York, and gathered all the materials, and reported all the facts upon which statistics were based, and Joshua Forman, of Onondaga, who from the beginning was the uncompromising, unflinching defender and eloquent advocate of the great work; and it was not till after these men had labored long and faithfully in the cause, that the giant intellect and master mind of De Witt Clinton was aroused to a sense of the importance of this magnificent undertaking. These two men of Onondaga, from the beginning to the end, were intimately connected with the work, in fact, identical with it, and indispensable to it. They labored faithfully and effectually throughout; Judge Geddes as an able engineer, Judge Forman as the unwavering promoter of its utility. These two men furnished more solid information relative to the canal, than all others put together. Till they took hold of it, the whole matter was considered by most men but an idle dream, a delusion, a false, unfeasible project.

The first ground broken on the Erie Canal, in the county of Onondaga, was by Mr. Elias Gumaer, in the town of Man-

\* See Hon. J. R. Lawrence's Clinton Monument Report, Assem. Doc. 1839, vol. 4, No. 215.

† Hosack, p. 304.

lius. Oliver Teall, Esq., took several contracts in the eastern part of the county. Messrs. Northrup and Dexter, and Jeremiah Keeler, built a section or two through Syracuse. Hazard Lewis, of Binghamton, built the locks. The first locks were built of Elbridge sand-stone. Commissioners, engineers, builders and masons, had no idea that the Onondaga limestone could be cut for facing-stone for locks, so little was this valuable material then understood. After the canal was completed, all things were ready, and the water was let in. For a long time it would not flow further west on the Syracuse level than the Stone bridge; the water all disappeared in a bed of loose gravel. Many despaired of ever making the canal tight; but after a deal of perplexity, this place was stopped, and the water ran on to the Raynor Block, and there performed the same freak, and it was several weeks before this level could be filled.

The first boats used on the canal, were the Mohawk boats, with wide walking boards for poling up the Mohawk River.

Oliver Teall was appointed the first Superintendent on the Erie Canal, and Joshua Forman, the first Collector; office at Syracuse.

In 1819, the Canal Commissioners recommended the construction of a water communication from the Erie Canal to the salt works at Salina, which work was completed simultaneously with the middle section of the Erie Canal. The following year, the Legislature directed the canal commissioners to open a boat navigation between the village of Salina and Onondaga Lake, and the Seneca River. This was named the Salina Canal; but afterwards, when the improvement was continued to Oswego; the whole was designated as the Oswego Canal, which was completed in 1826-7, and is now the greatest avenue for the exportation of Onondaga salt.

**HYDRAULIC CEMENT.**—Intimately connected with the Erie Canal, is the discovery and history of water lime, or American Hydraulic Cement. The first works of masonry on the Erie Canal, were contracted to be done with common quick-

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lime. Mr. Mason Harris and Mr. — Livingston, of Sullivan, Madison county, entered into a contract to furnish a quantity of this lime for the construction of culverts, aqueducts, &c., on the middle section of the canal, between Rome and Salina. They burned a large kiln and commenced the delivery of it. The purchasers, upon trial, found that it would not slack; all were greatly surprised who heard of the facts, and wondered at the singularity. The circumstance became common talk among all classes, in any way engaged in canal matters, and finally became known to the engineers, of whom Canvass White was one, and Judge Wright another, who took an interest in the affair. The article was examined, and the ledge from whence it was taken. Dr. Barto, a scientific gentleman from Herkimer County, was called upon to make experiments, to prove what this new substance should be. He came on, took some of the rough stone, and in the trip hammer shop of John B. Yates, at Chittenango, burned a parcel, pulverized it in a mortar, and in Elisha Carey's bar-room, (the present Polytechny,) in the presence of Messrs. Wright, White, and several others, mixed it with sand, rolled a ball of it, and placed it in a bucket of water for the night. In the morning it had set, was solid enough to roll across the floor, and by Dr. Barto pronounced cement, not inferior to the Roman of Puteoli, or the Dutch Tarras of the Rhine. Mr. White had recently returned from England, where he had been to examine bridges, canals, aqueducts, culverts, &c., of that country, and the materials of which they were made.

At considerable expense, and by repeated experiments, he found this to be an excellent substitute for the Roman cement, and he sought for and obtained a patent right of the United States, for this discovery. Notwithstanding the patent, four hundred thousand bushels was made and used on the canal, which might subject the manufacturers to the payment of sixteen thousand dollars, if prosecuted. Mr. White devoted considerable time and money in making experiments, and in introducing this cement, amidst the doubts and fears which essentially operated against the general use of it. It was at

first used with great reluctance and caution; commissioners, builders, and particularly masons, were entirely opposed to its use. In 1819, abutments, culverts, aqueducts and locks, began to be constructed. At first the face work of the locks only was laid in water-lime, and the arches of the aqueducts; the other work was laid in common lime. No provision had been made by the Canal Commissioners, for the importation of cement; the expense was dreaded. They appeared to think that under the circumstances, common lime would answer for the work, although Tarras or Roman cement had been recommended by Judge Wright.

All mason work on the canal, was laid in water-lime after 1819. The discovery was considered of immense importance to the State, and all agreed that Mr. White ought to be liberally rewarded for his persevering efforts in bringing it into general use. Water lime was every where used in the face of the patentee. At length Mr. White, finding no other means of redress, resolved to test the validity of his right. He accordingly brought a suit in the District Court of the United States, against Timothy Brown, of Sullivan, for an infringement of his patent, and obtained a judgment for seventeen hundred dollars. Other contractors were equally liable; the article had been manufactured extensively in Madison, Onondaga and Cayuga Counties, and Mr. White held a claim against them, which could be legally enforced, to the amount of upwards of twenty thousand dollars. These contractors, with Mr. Brown at their head, petitioned the Legislature for relief. Whereupon a committee was appointed to investigate the matter and report. In 1825, a compromise was effected, by the State paying to Canvass White, the sum of ten thousand dollars, on condition of his assigning and assuring to the people of the State of New-York, the full right forever, to manufacture and use this said cement, and of his discharging the said judgment and all claims against the petitioner, and all and every citizen of the State, for or on account of any infringement of the said patent right. By mutual agreement the whole matter was thus amicably arranged, and all persons

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were thereafter allowed to manufacture and use water lime. The article was first burned for market in the town of Sullivan, Madison County, one mile and a half west of Chittenango, in the fall and winter of 1818-19, on large log-heaps. John B. Yates fitted up a mill for grinding it. Mr. White had the exclusive right of manufacturing and vending the article. The price ordinarily charged, was from three dollars fifty cents to five dollars per barrel of five bushels. The barrels were lined with oiled paper, and were made perfectly water tight.

It has ever been considered a truly fortunate circumstance, that so valuable an article for the permanent construction of locks, aqueducts, &c., for our canals, was found at the very time at which it could hardly be dispensed with.









Engraved by J. C. Hinton

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## CHAPTER XIV.

## SYRACUSE—JOSHUA FORMAN.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF HON. JOSHUA FORMAN—CITY OF SYRACUSE.

JOSHUA FORMAN.—To give any thing like a perfect biographical notice of this distinguished individual, would require a person more familiar with his public acts, more intimate with occurrences which transpired at the period in which he was most active, and one who knew better the public worth and private excellence of his character than the author. But as he, for a period of more than a quarter of a century, was a leader in the affairs of this county, and became identified with all the majestic projects of State policy, we cannot pass him by without an attempt to do justice to his merits.

Joshua Forman was born at Pleasant Valley, in the county of Dutchess and State of New-York, the 6th of September, 1777. His parents were Joseph and Hannah Forman, who previous to the Revolution, resided in the city of New-York. Upon the breaking out of the war and the approach of the British to that City, Mr. Joseph Forman with his family, retired to Pleasant Valley, where the subject of this sketch was born. At an early age he evinced a strong desire for learning, in which he was encouraged by his friends. In the fall of 1793, he entered Union College, at Schenectady, and in due time graduated with honor. Directly after his collegiate course was completed, he entered the law office of Peter W. Radcliffe, Esq., of Poughkeepsie, where he remained about

two years. He then went to the city of New-York and completed his law studies in the office of Samuel Miles Hopkins, Esq. Soon after the close of his professional course, he was married to Miss Margaret Alexander, a daughter of the Hon. Boyd Alexander, M. P. for Glasgow, Scotland. In the spring of 1800, Mr. Forman removed to Onondaga Hollow, and opened a law office on the east side of the creek, where he began early to manifest his public spirit and enterprise. At the time he settled at Onondaga Hollow, the village was mainly situated on the east side of Onondaga Creek, and he being desirous of building up the village, and of extending its boundaries, soon located his father and his brothers John, Samuel and Daniel W., near the west end of the present village, on the north and south road passing through the same, and rapidly built up the western part. This left a space in the middle, comparatively unoccupied. Here, Judge Forman soon after erected a large Hotel, and afterwards a fine residence for himself, which was occupied many years after Judge Forman left the Hollow, by his brother-in-law, the late Wm. H. Sabin. He was also mainly instrumental in procuring the location of the academy, church, and two or three stores in the same vicinity, before he removed from Onondaga, thereby connecting the whole into one tolerably compact settlement.

By his integrity and strait forward course in the practice of his profession, he soon became distinguished as a lawyer and by his talents and gentlemanly deportment became familiarly known throughout the country.

In 1803, William H. Sabin, Esq., joined him as a partner in the practice of law, and for several years they did an extensive business. The subject of the Erie Canal became a theme of deep interest to several of the leading men of Onondaga, and to none more so than to Judge Forman. Conversations were held by those who were friends to the project, and measures were early taken to bring the great question before the public. Mr. Forman's talents as a public speaker, and as a man of influence and character, eminently distin-

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guished him to be the individual who should be foremost in moving in the matter. Accordingly in 1807, a union ticket was got up, headed by John McWhorter, Democrat; and Joshua Forman, Federalist. This ticket was carried with trifling opposition. It was headed "Canal Ticket," and as such received the cordial support of a large majority of the electors of Onondaga County.

As was anticipated by the friends of Judge Forman and the great work which he was designated to advocate, he brought forward the ever memorable resolution in the House of Assembly, which alone would render his name immortal, directing a survey to be made "of the most eligible and direct route of a canal, to open a communication between the tide waters of the Hudson and Lake Erie."

Mr. Forman had studied the subject of canals as constructed in foreign countries. His mind had been applied intently to their construction, utility and cost, and these labors had been brought to bear and have weight upon the subject now under investigation. He had well considered all the advantages that would accrue to the United States and the State of New-York, if this important work should be completed. He had prepared an estimate of the cost of construction, based upon statistics of the Languedoc Canal.

While discussing this subject in Albany, during the session, Judge Wright and General McNeill, of Oncida, became converts to the plan, through the instrumentality of Judge Forman, and Judge Wright agreed to second the resolution about to be offered whenever it should be brought up. Judge Forman had no confidence that the general government would assist New-York in the construction of a canal, but the resolution framed and offered by him was so worded as to give President Jefferson an opportunity to participate in the measure if he would. Fired with the novelty and importance of this project, and somewhat piqued at the manner of its reception by the members of the House, the advocate took pains to prepare himself thoroughly upon the subject, and when the resolution was called up, he addressed the House in a for-

cible and eloquent speech in its favor. Fortunately the resolution was adopted, and for this he was for years called a "visionary projector," and was asked a hundred times if he ever expected to live to see his canal completed; to which he uniformly answered, that "as surely as he lived to the ordinary age of man, he did; that it might take ten years to prepare the public mind for the undertaking, and as many more to accomplish it, nevertheless it would be done.\*"

Had not Joshua Forman brought forward the subject as he did, it is not easy to conceive who would have had the moral courage to meet the ridicule, of proposing in earnest, what was considered so wild a measure. Had it not been for this timely movement, the subject might have lain idle for years, so far as Legislative action was concerned. But by it, the ice was broken and an impetus given to a direct canal, by the discoveries made under it, and to Joshua Forman must ever be accorded the high consideration, as the first legislative projector of the greatest improvement of the age.

During all the times of darkness, discouragement and doubt, he boldly stood forth the unflinching champion of its feasibility, utility and worth, till the day of its completion.

On the occasion of the grand canal celebration, 1st of Nov., 1825, Judge Forman was selected by the citizens of Onondaga County, and as President of the village of Syracuse, to address Governor Clinton and suite, on their first passage down the canal, accompanied by various county committees along the line. He had but three hours to prepare his address, and it thus appears in the Syracuse Gazette of Nov. 2, 1825.—  
"Gentlemen: The roar of cannon rolling from Lake Erie to the ocean, and reverberated from the ocean to the lakes, has announced the completion of the Erie Canal, and you are this day witnesses, bearing the waters of the lakes on the unbroken bosom of the canal, to be mingled with the ocean, that the splendid hopes of our State are realized. The continued fete which has attended your boats, evinces how dear it was, to the

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\* Hosack, page 350.

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hearts of our citizens. It is truly a proud day for the State of New-York. No one is present who has the interest of the State at heart, who does not exult at the completion of a work fraught with such important benefits, and no man with an American heart, that does not swell with pride that he is a citizen of the country which has accomplished the greatest work of the age, and which has filled Europe with admiration of the American character. On the 4th of July, 1817, it was begun, and it is now accomplished. Not by the labor of abject slaves and vassals, but by the energies of freemen, and in a period unprecedentedly short, by the *voluntary* efforts of its freemen governed by the wisdom of its statesmen. This, however, is but one of the many benefits derived from our free institutions, and which marks a new era in the history of man—the example of a nation whose whole physical power and intelligence are employed to advance the improvement, comfort and happiness, of the people. To what extent this course of improvement may be carried, it is impossible for any mere man to conjecture; but no reasonable man can doubt, that it will continue its progress, until our wide and fertile territory shall be filled with a more dense, intelligent and happy people than the sun shines upon in the wide circuit of the globe. It has long been the subject of fearful apprehension, to the patriots of the Atlantic States that the remote interior situation of our western country (for want of proper stimuli to industry and free intercourse, with the rest of the world) would be filled with a semi-barbarous population, uncongenial with their Atlantic neighbors. But the introduction of steamboats on our lakes and running rivers, and canals to connect the waters which nature has disjoined, (in both which this State has taken the lead, and its example has now become general,) have broken down the old barriers of nature, and promise the wide spread regions of the west all the blessings of a sea-board district. But while we contemplate the advantages of this work, as a source of revenue to the State, and of wealth and comfort to our citizens, let us never forget the means by which it has been accomplished; and after rendering thanks to the



All-Wise Disposer of events, who has by his own means and for his own purposes brought about this great work, we would render our thanks, to all citizens and statesmen, who have in and out of the Legislature sustained the measure from its first conception to its present final consummation. To the commissioners who superintended the work, the board of native engineers, (a native treasure unknown till called for by the occasion,) and especially to his Excellency, the Governor, whose early and decided support of the measure, fearlessly throwing his character and influence into the scale, turned the poising beam and produced the first canal appropriation, and by his talents and exertions kept public opinion steady to the point. Without his efforts in that crisis, the canal project might still have been a splendid vision—gazed upon by the benevolent patriot, but left by cold calumniators to be realized by some future generation. At that time, all admitted that there was a high responsibility resting on you, and had it failed, you must have largely borne the blame. It has succeeded, and we will not withhold from you your due meed of praise.

Gentlemen, in behalf of the citizens of Syracuse, and the county of Onondaga, here assembled, I congratulate you on this occasion. Our village is the offspring of the canal, and with the county must partake largely of its blessings. We were most ungrateful if we did not most cordially join in this great state celebration."

Judge Forman having concluded his address, Governor Clinton replied in a very happy and appropriate manner; in the course of which he adverted to the important views presented in the address, and observed that they were such as he had expected from an individual who had introduced the first legislative measures relative to the canals, and had devoted much thought and reflection to the subject. His Excellency also adverted to the prosperous condition of Syracuse, and of the county, and concluded by expressing his congratulations on the final accomplishment of this great work.

As one of the committee from Syracuse, Judge Forman attended the ceremony of mingling the waters of Lake Erie

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with those of the Ocean, off Sandy Hook. He had now passed through all the stages in the progress of the great work, from its first announcement in the Legislature, to its final consummation in uniting the waters of Lake Erie with the Atlantic Ocean. His efforts in this great undertaking will ever be an enduring monument of his wisdom, and to future generations will his fame extend.

It is not to be supposed that Judge Forman had employed all his time and talents upon this single object. As a lawyer, he became distinguished; and, on account of his integrity and legal acquirements, was appointed First Judge of Onondaga County Common Pleas, in 1813. He filled the station with credit and ability for ten years; in fact, he elevated the character of this tribunal to the pitch, which gained for it the high reputation which it has since enjoyed.

He took an early and active interest in the establishment of churches in this county. "The First Onondaga Religious Society," at Onondaga Hill, in 1806, and the "Onondaga Hollow Religious Society," in 1809, owe their early organization mainly to his efforts. The Onondaga Academy, founded in 1814, owes its existence to the interest he manifested in the cause of education, and to his fostering care. He was also one of the most active in promoting the organization of the first Presbyterian society in Syracuse, in 1824, and was one of its first Trustees.

In 1807, he took a lease of the Surveyor General for a term of years, of a part of the reservation lands at Oswego Falls, for the purpose of erecting a grist mill in that wilderness country, at which time not a horse was owned by an inhabitant between Salina and Oswego. This was the first mill erected on the Oswego river in modern times, and it greatly facilitated the settlement of that region.

In 1808, he founded the celebrated Plaster Company of Camillus, for the purpose of more effectually working the extensive beds in that town. (See Camillus.) In 1813, Judge Forman built the canal and excavated ground, for the pond

at Onondaga Hollow, where he erected a grist mill, which was then considered one of the best in the county.

In 1817, while there was yet a strong opposition to the Erie Canal, and its friends were in the greatest anxiety, and even doubt as to the final result, Judge Forman furnished a series of articles, which were published in the Onondaga Register, signed X, in defense of the work. These papers were written with great ability, and are said by competent judges, to be inferior to none that had been written upon that subject.

In 1821, Judge Forman obtained the passage of a law, (drawn by his own hand,) authorizing the lowering of Onondaga Lake, and subsequently the lake was lowered about two feet. The great difficulty had been caused by the high water in the Seneca River, rising to a certain height, which obstructed the channel of the Onondaga outlet; and such was the nature of the obstructions, arising from the narrowness and crookedness of the passage, that when the Seneca River subsided to its proper limits, the water of Onondaga Lake was retained, and in rainy seasons did not fall so as to make dry ground around it, till late in summer, which was the cause of much inconvenience to the people living in the vicinity of the lake. To obviate this, the lake was lowered, and by it the lands around Salina and Syracuse were improved, leaving bare a beach about the lake, in some places of several rods in width. For the cause of philanthropy and humanity, this was a most important measure. The country around became more healthful, and although previously infested with a fatal miasma in August and September, from that time to this, the country about Syracuse and Salina, has been considered as healthy as any other section in the State.

In 1822, Judge Forman procured the passage of a law authorizing the erection of fixtures for the purpose of manufacturing coarse salt by solar evaporation, with a three cent per bushel bounty on salt so manufactured, for a given number of years. He went to New Bedford, in company with Isaiah Townsend, Esq., to make inquiries relative to solar evaporation of salt water, from persons interested in this mode of

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manufacturing salt from sea-water on Cape Cod. They engaged Mr. Stephen Smith, to come on to Syracuse with them, to manage the salt fields, he having had experience in this mode of manufacture. Mr. Smith was appointed agent of the Onondaga Company, and Judge Forman of the Syracuse Company, and these two proceeded to make the necessary erections for the manufacture of coarse salt.

At this time the Salina Canal terminated at the mill on the southern border of the village of Salina, and there was no water to be had, available for purposes of carrying machinery in the immediate vicinity of the principal salt spring. With a view of accomplishing this object, Judge Forman accompanied Governor Clinton to Salina, pointed out the ground, and proposed to have the Salina Canal extended so as to communicate with Onondaga Lake, and the following year this plan was carried out, the canal was continued to the lake, and arrangements made for the erection of pump works. This grand improvement in the elevation of brine, was made at the expense of the Syracuse and Onondaga Salt Companies, under the direction of Judge Forman. Afterwards the State bought the fixtures, aqueducts, &c., as they had reserved the right to do. To no individual so much as to Judge Forman, are we indebted for a modification of our salt laws, and for the substitution of water power, for hand labor, in the elevation of brine, for the reservoirs, and all the apparatus connected with those improvements, and for the introduction of the manufacture of coarse salt by solar heat. These were measures in which the public were deeply interested, which particularly absorbed his attention, and which have greatly improved and increased the manufacture of salt in the town of Salina.

Judge Forman was emphatically the founder of the city of Syracuse. He came to this place when there was but a small clearing south of the canal, and lived in a house which stood in the center of Clinton street; since removed. When he came to Syracuse it was deemed a doubtful and hazardous enterprise. His friends earnestly desired him to withdraw. But at no time did his courage, energy or faith, fail him. He

foresaw and insisted, that it must eventually become a great and flourishing inland town, and in spite of much determined opposition, and amidst a variety of obstacles and almost every species of embarrassment, he persisted in his efforts, till he had laid broad and deep the foundations of this flourishing city.

The most prominent obstacles were found in the rival villages in the vicinity, which were likely to be affected by the building up of a larger one in their midst, and in the extensive swamps and marshes which every where in this region prevailed, and in the consequent unhealthiness of the locality.

His work being accomplished, circumstances required his removal from this scene of his usefulness, and the theatre of his labors. In 1826, he removed to New Jersey, near New Brunswick, where he superintended the opening and working of a copper mine, which had been wrought to some extent prior to and during the Revolution. Soon after his departure from Syracuse, the State of New-York became sadly convulsed and deranged in its financial affairs. Our banking system was extremely defective—reform was demanded by an abused and outraged community. All saw and admitted the evil, but no one was prepared with a remedy. At this crisis, Judge Forman came forward with a plan for relief, and upon the invitation of Governor Van Buren he visited Albany, and submitted his plan to a Committee of the Legislature then in session. At the suggestion of the Governor, he drew up the bill which subsequently became a law, and is known as the Safety Fund Act, the great objects of which were, on the one hand, to give currency and character to our circulation, and on the other, to protect the bill-holder. At the special request of Governor Van Buren, Judge Forman spent most of the winter in attendance on the Legislature, in perfecting the details of this important act.

This plan operated well for many years, and the Safety Fund Banks of this State sustained themselves under some of the severest and heaviest revulsions, which the monied institutions of the country have ever experienced. And it may

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be safely affirmed that no system in practice on this side the Atlantic, has better stood the test of experience, or secured so extensively the popular confidence as this. The Safety Fund system was exclusively the plan of Judge Forman, and although modifications have since been made, and others projected, in our banking laws, it may be questioned whether the system has been materially improved.

In 1829-30, Judge Forman bought of the government of the State of North Carolina an extensive tract of land, consisting of some three hundred thousand acres, in Rutherfordton County. He took up his residence at the village of Rutherfordton, greatly extended its boundaries, established a newspaper press, and was considered the most enterprising individual in that part of the State; became quite distinguished as a public man, and noted for his exertions to elevate the character, and improve the mental and moral condition of the inhabitants in that region.

In 1831, after an absence of about five years, Judge Forman visited Onondaga. He was every where received with unqualified demonstrations of joy and respect, and every voice cheered him as the founder of a city, and a benefactor of mankind. The citizens of Syracuse, through their committee appointed for that purpose, consisting of Messrs. Stephen Smith, Harvey Baldwin, Amos P. Granger, L. H. Redfield, Henry Newton, John Wilkinson, and Moses D. Burnet, availed themselves of the opportunity to present to him a valuable piece of silver plate as a tribute of the high respect and esteem which was entertained for his talents and character, and in consideration of his devotedness to their interests, in the early settlement of the village. The plate is in form of a pitcher, and bears this inscription:

A Tribute of Respect

Presented by the  
Citizens of Syracuse  
to the

Honorable Joshua Forman,  
Founder of that Village.

SYRACUSE.



1831.

At the ceremony of presenting the plate, mutual addresses were delivered; on the one hand, highly expressive of the affection and regard of a whole community, to a distinguished individual, who had toiled and exhausted his more vigorous energies for their welfare; and on the other, the acknowledgment of past favors at the hands of his fellow-citizens and coadjutors, thankful that he had been the humble instrument of contributing to their prosperity, hoping that the bright visions of the future importance of Syracuse, which he had so long entertained, might be realized, he bade her citizens an affectionate farewell.

On his return to his home, in North Carolina, Judge Forman took with him this token of the gratitude of his fellow-citizens, and it remained with him till the year 1845, when he presented it to his daughter, the lady of Gen. E. W. Leavenworth, of Syracuse, then on a visit to her father who was in feeble health, remarking, that it constituted a part of the history of Syracuse, and that after his death there it should remain.

While his health permitted, Judge Forman's business was principally that of making sales of the lands he had purchased in North Carolina.

In 1846, this venerable man re-visited his former friends and acquaintances of his earlier years, and found in each full heart an honest welcome. To all it was apparent that the advances of time had made sad inroads upon his physical and mental powers. Seventy winters had shed their snows upon his devoted head. He had heard much of the growth and prosperity of his cherished city, and of his beloved Onondaga. He had fixed his heart upon again treading the soil of his revered county. He had earnestly desired to return to the land of his fathers, before his course on earth should be closed, to witness the result of those wonderful improvements in the accomplishment of which, he had taken so deep an interest, and so active a part, and to see the fulfilment of those predictions which had sometimes acquired for him the name of a visionary projector and enthusiast, and once again for the

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last time to behold in the body, the few surviving friends of his earlier years. He could not bid adieu to the world in peace, till this last and greatest of his earthly wishes should be gratified.

On this occasion a public dinner was tendered to him, by P. N. Rust, Esq., of the Syracuse House. A large number of the most distinguished gentlemen of the county were present, together with the few gray-headed pioneers, who still lingered in the land. Nearly all the company were the personal friends of Judge Forman, many of them having been sharers or attentive observers of his early and patriotic public efforts, for the social, mental and moral improvement of this county. Few indeed are the instances, where an individual, mantled in the hoary locks of age, after an absence of twenty years, returns to the scenes of his primitive usefulness, with so many demonstrations, on the part of friends and former neighbors, of joy and thankfulness, as in the one before us. It was also a season of peculiar gratification to him. Here he beheld the results of his labors in early active manhood. Here he beheld the progress of a thriving town founded by his fostering hand. Here he received the warm greetings of the friends of his early life, and here he met with them, to bid them a kind, affectionate and last adieu.

Moses D. Burnet, Esq., presided on this very interesting occasion. A formal address of congratulation, on account of the great success of his early labors, and the remarkable fulfilment of his hopes and predictions, was made by the Hon. Harvey Baldwin, which was replied to, in behalf of Judge Forman, (he being then unable to articulate distinctly, on account of a paralytic shock,) by his son-in-law, E. W. Leavenworth, Esq.

Gen. Amos P. Granger, Hon. George Geddes, Lewis H. Redfield, Esq., and several other gentlemen of note, addressed the party in a very felicitous manner.

The proceedings of this very interesting meeting may be found in the Onondaga Democrat of the 3d of Oct., 1846, and other city papers of that date.



From Syracuse, Judge Forman retired to his mountain home, in the milder climes of the sunny South, carrying with him the most vivid recollections of the kindness and hospitality of his friends; looking back upon a well spent life, much of which was devoted to the service of his country, without regret; and forward, without a fear to the hour when he will be called away from the scenes of society and earth.

Judge Forman is still living, (1849,) at his home in North Carolina, having bid adieu to the cares and business occupations of life.

The character of this distinguished man may be summed up in a very few words. His mind was of no ordinary cast, and whether we view him as a fellow-citizen, a neighbor, a legislator, a jurist, a judge, or as a man, we find nothing that we cannot respect and admire. Full of life and energy himself, he infused with uncommon facility the same spirit into others, and wherever he was found, in him was the master spirit of every plan. He possessed a mind of uncommon activity, never wearying with the multiplicity of his labors and cares; it was stored with an unusual variety of knowledge, extending far beyond the boundaries of his professional pursuits, and he possessed a rare felicity in the communication of this knowledge to others. This fund of solid and general information, upon every variety of topic, and his forcible and happy manner of communication, joined with the most social and cheerful disposition, rendered him on all occasions a most agreeable and interesting gentleman in conversation, and the delight of every circle in which he moved. He greatly excelled in the clear perceptions of the results of proposed measures of public improvement, and in a capacity to present them forcibly to others, carrying along with him individuals, communities and public assemblies, by his easy flowing language, and a manner at once most clear, captivating and persuasive. His whole life was characterized by the most public spirited efforts for the general good, and the most disinterested benevolence,—always comparatively forgetful of his own private interest, in his zeal for the accomplishment of works of public utility. Through

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the long period of his stirring and eventful life, he sustained a character without stain and without reproach, and now standing on the borders of the grave, is most justly entitled to the admiration and gratitude of his countrymen.

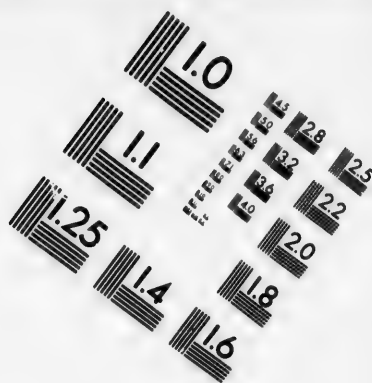
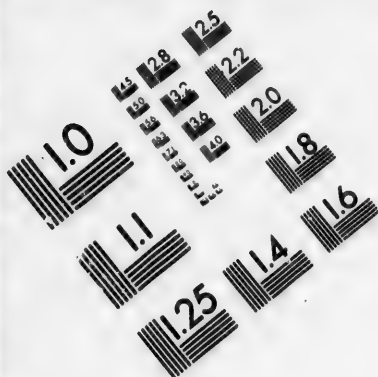
It was the happiness of the author, in his youthful days, to spend several months in the family of Judge Forman, at Onondaga Hollow, and he takes pleasure in this opportunity of testifying to his domestic virtues and private worth.

**CITY OF SYRACUSE.**—The ground upon which the city of Syracuse now stands, was originally a part of the Salt Springs Reservation, and at the time the county was organized, in 1794, with all that part of the reservation east of Onondaga Creek and Lake, was included in the town of Manlius.

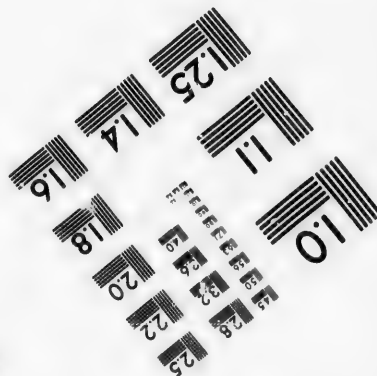
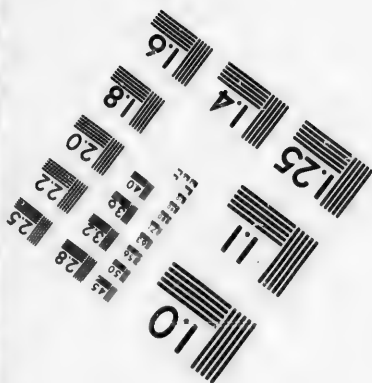
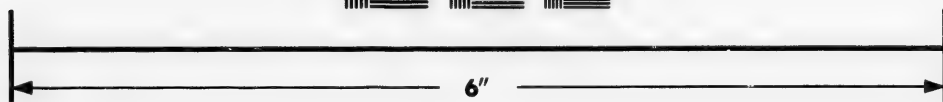
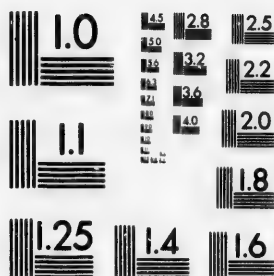
The first locality which received a name within the limits of the present city of Syracuse, was called Webster's Landing, from Ephraim Webster, who kept a few goods for the Indian trade, on the bank of the creek, a little south of its outlet. Mr. Webster was succeeded by Benjamin Newkirk, in 1793; at which time, there was quite a number of Indian cabins, ranging along the west bank of the creek, enough to form a respectable Indian village. The dark, gloomy and almost impenetrable swamp, now occupied by the city, was then a favorite resort for wolves, bears, wild-cats, mud-turtles, and swamp rattlesnakes. The western portion of the valley about Syracuse, was originally timbered with hemlock, birch and soft maple; the eastern portion with cedar and pine.

Near the west bank of the creek, was an extensive Indian burying-ground, where skeletons have frequently been disinterred, and are occasionally to this day—two having been exhumed during the past year. At the time the west locks were constructed at Syracuse, in 1819, over one hundred were taken up. In excavating the canal for the red mill, on the east bank of the creek, several skeletons were found. In 1843, one of extraordinary size was disinterred; one of the lower bones of the leg being set beside the limb of a tall man, reached far above his knee. The skull was comparatively





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large, and the jaws were surrounded with a full set of double teeth, all around. They were perfectly sound, covered with a beautiful enamel of the most perfect whiteness. Such occurrences are not uncommon, at the several Indian burying grounds throughout the county. In one grave was found a large skeleton, on each side of which was a gun, with flints in the locks, having the appearance of being loaded at the time they were buried. In this grave was also a brass kettle, two pairs of shears, three razors, a tomahawk, and a number of bullets. A large pine tree had recently been cut, which had grown over the grave. In 1842, Mr. Henry Young discovered a paint box, seven inches square, around which clay and gravel had firmly cemented, some four inches in thickness; with it was a brush. The box contained a red pigment, which from the description, must have been vermilion. The gravel had become firmly attached, and a portion of the box petrified. In 1808, while Mr. Young and others were cutting a large hemlock tree, over four feet in diameter, for hewing-timber, after cutting in about a foot and a half, they found near a hundred bullets, which had been deposited in a box, cut in the tree. The number of concentric circles from the bark to the bullets, was one hundred and fifty two; which, taken from 1808, leaves the time at which they were deposited, 1656, at which time the French had established colonies and missionaries at Onondaga.

In 1795, a feud broke out between a clan of the Onondagas and another of the Cayugas, which raged violently for a long period, during which, at sundry times, several individuals of both nations were killed. The last one who fell in this deadly strife, was an Onondaga, called Handsome Harry. He had been followed by a party of Cayugas, from Tuscarora and back, and was overtaken at the sand bank now owned by Mr. Henry Young, not far from the Syracuse pump house. When he found his pursuers hard upon him, he made no effort to escape, but quietly kneeled down, bared his bosom, and was instantly shot dead with an arrow. He was counted the handsomest man in the nation. He was bu-

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ried on the spot where he fell, and two favorite sisters for a long time daily visited the spot, and mourned the death of their brother with the deepest sorrow.

In 1804, an act was passed directing the sale of two hundred and fifty acres of land, of the Salt Springs Reservation, the avails of which were to be expended in laying out and improving a road running from lot forty-nine, Manlius, to lot thirty-eight, Onondaga, east and west through the reservation. Simeon De Witt, the Surveyor General, directed James Geddes, Esq., to locate and lay out the land, and he did so. The land was advertised for sale, with the announcement that upon it was a good mill site. Mr. Geddes having ascertained that fact, laid out the land in reference to it. The lot was laid out in rather an irregular form,\* and the reason assigned for so doing, was that as much dry land might be secured as possible. But notwithstanding all the precaution of Mr. Geddes, he found it impossible to locate the ground in such a manner as to avoid entirely the swamp, some considerable portion of which was covered with water most of the year; a doleful place indeed, for the site of a future city.

While the subject of this land sale was under discussion, certain persons at Onondaga Hollow, and at Salina, denied the possibility of a water power, and so influenced the Surveyor General, that he put a spirit level into his gig and came out from Albany, expressly to examine the premises. He, assisted by Mr. Geddes, took a level of the creek, and found the power even better than had been represented, as made by the imperfect instrument Mr. G. had used in taking the first level.

It is sometimes curious to see how simple circumstances and events, trifling in themselves, will operate to direct a man's whole life. The knowledge acquired by Mr. Geddes, in the use of this instrument in leveling this mill power, was the inciting cause by which he became qualified to make the survey and levels on the Erie Canal.

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\* See old Map of Syracuse at the County Clerk's office.

The two hundred and fifty acres laid out and advertized, were sold at auction in June, 1804, and bid off by Mr. Abraham Walton, for the sum of six thousand five hundred and fifty dollars, or about twenty-six dollars twenty cents per acre,\* and the lot was thereafter called the Walton Tract.

The commissioners to receive and disburse the money arising from the sale of this tract, were James Geddes, Moses Carpenter and John Young. Mr. Geddes was appointed treasurer, and being absent from home during the construction of the road, Mrs. Geddes became the acting treasurer, and paid out the money, upon the order of the individual who built it. Although the avails of this sale were to be appropriated towards the laying out and improving a road, there was a stipulation in the terms of sale, that the purchaser should, within a specified time, erect or cause to be erected a suitable building for a tavern, or house of entertainment, for the accommodation of travelers. The same season, Mr. Walton laid out lots for a village, and, agreeably to the stipulation, sold to Henry Bogardus, for the consideration of three hundred dollars, half an acre of ground, binding him, within a reasonable time to erect a suitable house for a tavern, and to keep or cause one to be kept. His house was erected in 1806. It was two stories high, and thirty-five by forty-five feet on the ground, and stood on the site of the present Empire Block. Mr. Bogardus was succeeded by Mr. Burlingham, in 1808; Joseph Langdon, in 1810; James Ingalls, in 1812; and by Sterling Cossit, in 1815.

At the time of this laying out of a village, it was called, "*South Salina*," and the tavern the "*South Salina Hotel*." A Mr. Merrill erected a small frame house the same year that Mr. Bogardus built his hotel, nearly opposite, east, but there was so much sickness in the neighborhood, that he became discouraged, pulled it down and carried it away. Before this purchase was made by Mr. Walton, several persons had erected log cabins in the vicinity of the spot where Mr. Bogardus

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\* MS. of Judge James Geddes.



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put up his hotel. The names given of some of them are, Mr. Hopkins, in 1797; Mr. Butler, in 1799. These were located a little west of the Oswego bridge, north of General Granger's residence, near a spring of fresh water.

In the spring of 1800, Mr. Calvin Jackson came to this place, who lived in a small log house a little south of where the rail-road crosses Genesee street, and there was born Albion Jackson, on the 28th of December, 1800, supposed to be the first white child born within the limits of the city of Syracuse, out of that part heretofore known as Salina. Mr. Jackson is still living, near the Indian Reservation, and is a grandson of Jeremiah Jackson. William Lee and Aaron Cole, blacksmiths, opened a shop in 1805. In 1805, Amos Stanton, father of Rufus Stanton, and Mrs. Wales, now residents of Syracuse, located near the Salina Bridge. Dr. Swan put up a small frame house in 1807. Jonathan Fay settled near the Court-House in 1808. Rufus Stanton kept a tavern near the Salina bridge in 1811—building now standing, and occupied as a public house.

The mills were erected in 1805, by Mr. Walton, James Sayles being the master builder. The first dam was erected where the Seneca Turnpike bridge crosses the creek, and the road at that time passed over it. The dam stood only about a year, when it was swept away by a heavy spring freshet. It was re-built several rods further up the stream, but has recently been torn away on account of the supposed unhealthiness of the mill pond.

The name South Salina, was not received with general approbation, and after a time it was changed to "*Milan*." This name it bore for several years, and marriages, deaths, and other incidents, were announced in the "*Manlius Times*," then the only paper in the county, as having taken place at Milan.

The Walton Tract, was a portion of it sold to Michael Hogan and Charles Walton, and they, with the original proprietor, held it in common. After some unimportant changes, it was transferred to Forman, Wilson & Co., in 1814, for about

nine thousand dollars. From these proprietors, it passed into the hands of Daniel Kellogg and Wm. H. Sabin, in 1818, who sold it in 1823 to Henry Eckford, Esq., the celebrated ship-builder of New-York. In May, 1824, the Walton Tract was transferred to the Syracuse Company, for the consideration of thirty thousand dollars, which Company consisted of Messrs. William James, Isaiah and John Townsend, and James McBride. The same was deeded in trust to Messrs. Moses D. Burnet and Gideon Hawley, since which, village lots have been extensively sold.

At the time the purchase was made by Forman, Wilson & Co., they erected a large slaughter house in a pine grove, a little in rear of Gen. Granger's dwelling, north of Church street. They continued the business of packing beef and pork on a large scale, till 1817, having had during the war a heavy army contract.

After the transfer of the Walton estate to Messrs. Kellogg and Sabin, Judge Forman was appointed agent for them, and had the sole management of affairs.

In the spring of 1819, Mr. Owen Forman, a younger brother of the Judge, and John Wilkinson, Esq., then a young lawyer, came down from Onondaga Hollow, under the direction of Judge Forman, to lay out the Walton Tract into village lots. The old survey of a village by Mr. Walton was thrown aside and disregarded. These young men proceeded to the work in the month of June, and such was the indefinite position of the ancient land marks, that it was with the greatest difficulty that they could ascertain with any degree of certainty, the starting point. Although in possession of an excellent description, made by Judge Geddes, but for a certain wild plumb tree therein mentioned, it is thought doubtful whether the precise lines as originally run could have been traced. After near a fortnight of hard labor, the village was again laid out, so far as related to the Walton Tract; and what was not included in the village, was laid out into farm lots of from five to ten acres each.

After the survey was completed, Judge Forman named the

village "*Corinth*," the name of Milan having been relinquished in consequence of an ineffectual attempt to obtain a Post Office, there being already one of that name in the State. For several years the place went by the name of "*Cossit's Corners*," after Mr. Sterling Cossit, who succeeded Mr. Ingalls in the South Salina Hotel. Mr. Cossit kept the house from 1815 to 1825, after which it was kept for some time by Mr. Williston.

When this last survey was made, there was but a small clearing in the village of Corinth. The extent of it was from the canal, near Clinton street, south to Fayette street, and east to Warren street. On the north side of the canal, the clearing extended as far back as Church street, and east to Warren street. The rest of the dry ground was a pine grove interspersed with oak bushes.

The first burying ground in Syracuse was on Fayette street, very near where Clinton street crosses it, if any thing a little west. At this spot were buried some fifteen or twenty persons, whose remains have never been removed, and hundreds daily pass over them unconscious that in so public a place lie the remains of individuals who were once as active in life as any now upon the stage. The old burying ground near the west Rail-Road Depot, was laid out by Owen Forman and John Wilkinson, at the time they laid out the village.

Purchases were now somewhat rapidly made, and the business of clearing went vigorously on. Very much of the present city was, however, a dreary waste of swamp, approached only by means of "corduroy" and "gridiron" roads. All along where now is located the beautiful park, was then a famous shooting ground for partridges and rabbits, and further back, were plenty of wood-cock, snipe, owls and mud-turtles.

In spring, the water did not usually subside sufficiently to allow people to pass with any degree of comfort, till late in May or June, and those going from Onondaga to Salina, were obliged to pass around on the high ground east of Syracuse, over by-roads, which were cut in every direction through the reservation, for the purpose of collecting wood in winter for

the salt works. A person passing over the present improved roads, can have no conception of their impassable condition in spring and autumn, at that period. In fact the only time when they were endurable was in winter, when perfectly frozen and covered with a good body of snow.

In the fall of 1819, Judge Forman removed to Syracuse with his family, and occupied a house a little west of the Townsend Block. At this time there were but two frame houses in the village, besides the tavern. Log houses, and plank, and slab cabins, were scattered over the dry ground, most of which latter had been tenanted by laborers on the canal. The pasture of the Judge ran back some fifty rods and east to Salina street; most of it was a pine grove. Another lot of twenty acres commenced where the Syracuse House now stands, and there was a set of bars and passage-way to this lot, where the western front door of that building opens to the street. In 1816, Rufus Stanton raised on this ground an abundant crop of rye. It was afterwards occupied as a pasture until 1820. So dense was the forest about Syracuse in 1819, that two young ladies, the present Mrs. E. W. Leavenworth and Mrs. M. D. Burnet, in taking a morning stroll over "Prospect Hill," became bewildered among the thick brushwood, and finally rambled about till the day was far spent, when they found themselves in the vicinity of the Lodi Locks, greatly fatigued with their labors, and not a little rejoiced at the prospect of deliverance from the terrors of passing a gloomy night in the wilderness. Here they recognized familiar ground, and returned home in safety, after a day of much anxiety and no little inquietude of mind.

Previous to the arrival of Judge Forman, Sidney Dole and Milan C. Taylor, owned and occupied the mill, and kept a store next west of where the late William Malcolm first kept; this was in 1814. They were the first merchants in Syracuse. Northrup and Dexter had a job on the Erie Canal in 1817, and set up a store in place of Dole and Taylor, and conducted business till 1821. In 1821, General Amos P. Granger came down from Onondaga Hill, and set up as a dry goods

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merchant, on the north-east corner, by the present Salina street bridge. At this time there was no other store in Syracuse, except two or three small groceries. Mr. Henry Newton opened a store in 1822; Mr. Archy Kasson opened a hardware store in 1822; Kasson and Heermans, dry goods, groceries and hardware in 1823; Mr. G. M. Towle opened a commission and forwarding store in April, 1823; Geo. Davis & Co., in July, 1823; Henry W. Durnford, groceries, drugs and medicine, 1823; John Rogers & Co., from New-York, November, 1823; William Malcolm, 1823; Haskell & Walbridge, saddlers and furnishers for the trade, 1824. In 1824, J. Vanderheyden, Mead & Davis, A. N. Van Patten, and H. & W. Dowd, established themselves as merchants at Syracuse. Hiram Judson, watch maker and jeweller, 1824; H. Hyde & Co., established themselves as forwarding merchants in 1824. Since this period merchants have become so numerous it is impossible to follow their history with precision.

Messrs. Buell & Safford bought the lot where the Syracuse House now stands, and commenced the erection of the "Syracuse Hotel." While the building was in progress of erection, Mr. Safford fell from a scaffold, and was killed by the fall; after which, the property passed into the hands of Mr. Eckford, who completed the Syracuse Hotel in 1822. It was three stories high, and the first brick building of any considerable dimensions, erected in town. It was kept several years by Mr. James Mann. After the Syracuse Company came in possession of the premises, the house was rebuilt, and has since been enlarged and improved to its present ample dimensions and style. It was at the time of rebuilding named the "Syracuse House;" after which, it was kept by Mr. George Rust; afterwards, by Daniel Comstock and H. T. Gibson; and for a long period thereafter, it was kept by P. N. Rust, Esq. He was succeeded by Gillett & Knickerbocker, in 1848.

In 1822, Syracuse had not more than two hundred and fifty inhabitants, and no place of worship; the whole church-going

community was only from thirty to forty; no school-house, only two taverns, and the stores before mentioned.

The first physician was Dr. Swan, who located at Syracuse about the year 1807.

Dr. Basset was the physician during the building of the canal, and did a vast amount of medical business; for, almost every man engaged on the canal was sick. Eye witnesses observe, that the scenes of suffering and distress at that period, were beyond conception. Dr. Colvin succeeded Dr. Basset, and still resides at Syracuse. Dr. Day came in afterwards, and died of Cholera, in 1832. Dr. M. Williams, and other physicians, came in soon after, and the number has become so numerous, that it would be difficult to trace them.

John Wilkinson, Esq., in 1819, was the first lawyer who established himself in Syracuse. He erected an office on the corner where the Globe Buildings now stand, and was heartily ridiculed for setting his office out in the fields. This locality at that time, was quite out of town; but circumstances, and the advancing prosperity of the place, have brought it into the centre of business.

Alfred Northam, Esq., established himself as a lawyer at Syracuse, in 1824. Messrs. Harvey Baldwin and Schuyler Strong, were the next lawyers who located at Syracuse, in 1826, and were soon followed by Messrs. Wheaton and Davis, E. W. Leavenworth, Esq., B. D. Noxon, Esq., James R. Lawrence, Esq., and others, some of whom came with the removal of the Court House from the Hill.

Mr. John Durnford, established the first printing press at Syracuse. He was induced to locate at Syracuse, from representations made to him of the growing importance of the village. He issued the first number of the "ONONDAGA GAZETTE," 2d of April, 1823; it was of the Clintonian school of politics. The first number contained but one merchant's advertisement, viz.: Kasson & Heerman's. Other advertisements were of "Lee's Billious Pills," "Pomeroy's Razor Strop," "Clark's Commentary," and "Morse's Geography." The name of the paper was changed after the first year, to

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"SYRACUSE GAZETTE, AND GENERAL ADVERTISER," and was continued by Mr. Durnford until 1829, when Lewis H. Redfield moved to Syracuse from Onondaga Hollow, bought out Mr. D., and united the "ONONDAGA REGISTER" to it, under the name of "THE SYRACUSE GAZETTE AND ONONDAGA REGISTER." Mr. Redfield continued the publication of the "Gazette and Register" until the close of 1831, when it was transferred to Messrs. J. H. Clark and J. de Blois Sherman; Mr. R. having had charge of the "Register" at Onondaga Hollow, afterwards, "Gazette and Register," at Syracuse, for a period of eighteen years; during which time, D. D. Spencer editor of the "Ithaca Chronicle," Lewis Gaylord Clark, Editor of the Knickerbocker, and E. Russell Webb, of New-York, served their several terms of apprenticeship in the "Register" office; all of whom occupy distinguished positions in their respective occupations. Messrs. Clark and Sherman, changed the name of the paper to "THE SYRACUSE ARGUS," and gave the "Jackson party" a warm support for a short time, when it was finally discontinued.

In 1825, Messrs. — Barnum and John F. Wyman established the "SYRACUSE ADVERTISER," a "Jackson" paper. Mr. Barnum, however, soon withdrew, and was succeeded in his interest by Mr. Norman Rawson. Messrs. Rawson & Wyman, continued the "Advertiser" until the autumn of '26, when Mr. Wyman, who continued alone in the publication of it, until the spring of 1829. The "ONONDAGA JOURNAL," published at Onondaga Hill, by Mr. V. W. Smith, was then united with the Advertiser, under the name of "THE ONONDAGA STANDARD," and published by Wyman and Smith. The Standard has since been continued by V. W. & T. A. Smith, Wm. L. Crandall and A. L. Smith; A. L. Smith and Marcellus Farmer; A. L. Smith and P. Agan; and is now published by P. Agan and Moses Summers. The "MORNING POST," the first daily established in Syracuse, was issued from the Standard office, about four months in 1835.

In 1830, the "ONONDAGA REPUBLICAN," an Anti-Masonic paper, was established by Mr. W. S. Campbell, and was con-



tinued about three years. "THE SYRACUSE AMERICAN"—National Republican—was established in 1831, by Mr. — Adams; continued through the campaign of 1832, and then discontinued.

In 1834, Messrs. Clark & Patterson, commenced the publication of "THE CONSTITUTIONALIST," a Whig paper, which was continued about two years. This was succeeded by "THE SYRACUSE WHIG," edited by John K. Barlow, who continued it about two years, when it was merged into a new paper, the "WESTERN STATE JOURNAL," by V. W. & S. F. Smith; the latter of whom, in 1846, commenced "THE SYRACUSE DAILY JOURNAL," in connection with it. In the Spring of 1847, these papers passed into the hands of Henry Barns, Augustus S. Smith, and Edward Cooper, by whom they were continued until the destruction of the establishment by fire, 6th of January, 1849. The Daily and Weekly Journal are now continued by Marcellus Farmer, Vivus W. Smith and Seth Haight.

In 1835, "THE ONONDAGA CHIEF," by Miller and Burdick, was commenced and continued about two years. The Chief was succeeded by the "EMPIRE STATE DEMOCRAT," by Hiram Cummings; afterwards by the "FREEMAN," Abolition, by Tucker & Kinney. The "SYRACUSE DAILY STAR," neutral, succeeded the Freeman, by the same publishers in 1845, who soon after commenced the publication of the "WEEKLY STAR." Both papers are now continued by Kinney & Masters. The "RELIGIOUS RECORDER" was established by Terry & Platt, in 1844.

On the first of January, 1849, the following entitled papers were published in the city of Syracuse, viz: Syracuse Journal, daily and weekly; Star, daily and weekly; Standard, weekly; Democrat, weekly; Religious Recorder, weekly; Keveille, daily; and Onondaga Sentinel, weekly; and in March, 1849, was established the "CENTRAL CITY," by an association of Printers.\*

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\* For the above brief notice of the Press of Syracuse, the author is mainly indebted to Messrs. L. H. Redfield, S. F. Smith and Henry Parus.



Others have at different periods, been started, but their existence has been short.

A stereotype foundery was established by Messrs. Baker & Tiernan, from Philadelphia, March 1849.

The first religious society organized in Syracuse, was of the Baptist denomination. At first, a Conference was organized in the winter of 1819-20, by Elder John G. Sternes, who officiated as minister a portion of the time. Thomas Spencer, Braddock Dart, David Johnson, James Wilson, Alvin Walker with their wives, and Wyllys Brown, B. G. Avery and Mrs. Wales, were the members. Arrangements were made with the Baptist Madison Theological Seminary, to send out every Saturday, a young man to preach. The arrangement was not perfect, and services were not regularly held. The people of all denominations at that time attended the Baptist meeting in a little low school house, scarcely capable of containing sixty persons.

Elder Nathaniel J. Gilbert came to Syracuse as a missionary, 16th of February, 1821, and became the first stated preacher, in June, 1823. Rev. Mr. Gilbert, united with the Church and became their regular pastor, in November, 1824. He continued in the faithful and laborious performance of the duties of his office, until July, 1832, when he was suddenly cut off by Asiatic Cholera, deeply lamented by the whole community.

On the 29th of August, 1833, Rev. Orsamus Allen became the pastor of the Church, and so continued until October 20, 1834. In November following, Rev. Stephen Wilkins became the pastor, and continued until December 1st, 1837. He was then succeeded by Rev. John Blain, who remained with the Church four years.

December 1, 1841, Rev. Joseph W. Taggart was installed pastor, and remained until August, 1847. He was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. Robert R. Raymond, who entered upon his duties on the first day of September, 1847.

Their first house of worship, (being also the first erected in Syracuse,) was built in 1824, at a cost of two thousand three

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hundred dollars, and enlarged in 1839, at a cost of two thousand three hundred dollars. In the spring of 1848, the society made an exchange with Capt. Joel Cody, of their house and lot, for a lot more eligible, situated a few rods east of their old location, and erected on the new site, a brick edifice after the Roman Ionic order of architecture. This building is one hundred and thirty-two feet long, (including the porch in front and lecture room in rear,) by seventy feet in width, estimated cost, about fifteen thousand dollars, making the whole property worth about twenty thousand dollars.

"*The First Presbyterian Society of Syracuse*," was organized December 14th, 1824, and the following persons elected trustees, viz: Moses D. Burnet, Miles Seymour, Rufus Moss, Jonathan Day, Heman Walbridge, Joshua Forman and John Slocum. Their house of worship was built in the summer of 1825, and dedicated in January, 1826. Rev. D. C. Lansing preached the dedication sermon. The Church was organized with twenty-six members, on the 6th of April, 1826. Elders, Frederick Phelps and Edward Chapman; Deacon, Pliny Dickinson. On the 28th of June, 1826, Rev. John Watson Adams was ordained and installed pastor over this church, and has continued so until the present time, (1849,) a rare instance of the true relation which should be sustained between people and pastor. It is believed there is not another instance of so long continuance of a minister with his congregation in Western New-York. Previous to the erection of their house of worship, meetings were held in the village school house.

"*Park Church*" (second Presbyterian) was organized 1847, building completed 1848. Rev. W. W. Newell, pastor.

"*St. Paul's Church*" was organized 22d of May, 1826, Rev. John McCarty presiding. At this time were chosen, John Durnford and Samuel Wright, Wardens; Amos P. Granger, Archy Kasson, James Mann, Matthew W. Davis, Mather Williams, Barent Filkins, Othniel Williston and Jabez Hawley, Vestrymen. In 1825, the Syracuse Company gave the Episcopal Society a lot of ground for a church, and

in September the frame was raised, and covered during the autumn of that year, and in 1827, it was completed. It stood on the ground lately occupied by the Granger Block, now in ruins. The church building was subsequently sold to the Roman Catholic Society, who removed it. On the 12th of July, 1841, the corner stone of the present St. Paul's Church was laid, and the building completed early the following year. Previous to the erection of the first church edifice, services were held in the school house, and occasionally in the Baptist house. Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church, who officiated previous to the organization of the society, were Rev. Messrs. Lucius Smith, Wm. B. Thomas, — Wilcox, Wm. J. Bulkley, Augustus L. Converse, and afterwards, Rev. Messrs. John McCarty, William Barlow, Palmer Dyer, Richard Salmon, John Grigg, Francis Todrig, Clement M. Butler, Charles H. Halsey, William Walton, Isaac Swart, John B. Gallagher and Henry Gregory. Dr. Gregory was succeeded in St. Paul's by the Rev. Wm. B. Ashley.

"St. James Church," (Protestant Episcopal,) was organized August, 1848. Rector, Rev. Henry Gregory, D. D.

The "*Church of the Messiah*," (First Unitarian Congregational Society of Syracuse,) was organized 3d of September, 1838. First trustees, Hiram Putnam, Nathan Flint and Charles F. Williston. Their first house of worship was a little chapel on Genesee street, dedicated in December, 1838. The new edifice was erected in 1843, and consecrated in December of that year. Clergymen have been Rev. J. P. B. Storer, who commenced with the consecration, and continued till within one week of his death, at which time he preached his last sermon. He died 10th of March, 1844. Rev. Samuel J. May has officiated since, to 1849.

*First Roman Catholic Church of Syracuse*, was organized Christmas day, 1842. It was purchased from the Protestant Episcopal Society, and fitted up for the Roman Catholics. In 1848, it was considerably enlarged and improved. Rev. Michael Haes, the only minister.

The "*First Methodist Episcopal Society*" erected a substan-

tial brick church in 1836. Statistics from this society have not been furnished. It is, however, one of the oldest in the city. A new society has recently been organized.

A "*Dutch Reformed Society*" was organized in 1848. The Rev. J. H. Cornell, minister.

There is an African Church, and several German societies, of different protestant persuasions.

The Onondaga County Bank was incorporated in 1830; Salina Bank, 1832; Bank of Syracuse, 1838, under General Banking Law. Syracuse and Utica Rail-road went into operation 3d July, 1839; Auburn and Syracuse, 1841; Oswego and Syracuse, October, 1848. Telegraph from Albany to Syracuse established 1846. Townsend Block was erected in 1842; The Granger Block in 1844—destroyed by fire on 6th January, 1849; Empire Block erected 1845; Globe Buildings, 1846-7; Malcolm Block, 1847; Market Hall, 1845.

The first packet-boat on the canal, named the Montezuma, arrived at Syracuse on the 21st of April, 1820. It was built and fitted up by a company of gentlemen at Montezuma, from a model furnished by Comfort Tyler. It was seventy-six feet long, and fourteen feet wide. Its arrival created great excitement; hundreds of anxious spectators lined the banks of the canal, to witness this mighty wonder. This practical illustration of the benefits of canal navigation was not without its use. It hushed the hostility of canal opponents, and subdued the fears of the more timorous; visionary theory yielded to simple fact, and wild speculation to the test of experiment. The canal was now navigable from Montezuma to Utica, ninety-four miles, and at once business received a new and vigorous impulse.

The 4th of July, 1820, was a glorious day for Syracuse. The canal was in practical operation, the prospects of the future city began to brighten; a most brilliant day dawned upon a land heretofore a swamp and bog. It was hailed as a day of joy, festivity and rejoicing. Invitations had been extended to the friends of the canal throughout the State, particularly in the Western District. Thousands of guests from

the surrounding counties came in to witness the novelty of canal navigation, and to celebrate the day. Some of the most distinguished men in the State were present, among whom were Gov. Clinton and suite, General Van Cortland, Myron Holley, Thomas J. Oakley, and John C. Spencer. Judge Van Ness adjourned the Circuit, then in session at the Court-House, and the Court and Bar attended in a body. Thaddeus M. Wood, Esq., presided on the occasion. The Declaration was read by N. P. Randall, Esq., and the Oration delivered by Samuel Miles Hopkins, Esq., to more than two thousand people. The numerous procession was formed in front of Mr. Cossit's tavern, escorted by the Salina Band. They proceeded to a pine grove directly in rear of the Townsend Block. The platform on which were seated the orator, reader and distinguished guests, was under a large spreading pine, which has long ago bowed its towering head to make way for the rapid and substantial improvements which have since been made. This was the first celebration of our national independence at Syracuse, and those who were present number it among her proudest days.

A Post Office was established at Syracuse in February, 1820, and was thus announced in the Onondaga Register—"A new Post Office has been established at Syracuse, (formerly Corinth) in the town of Salina, and John Wilkinson, Esq., appointed Post Master. The name of this village was necessarily changed, there being a Post Office of the name of Corinth previously established in the State." The advertising list in 1823, at the time of the first appearance of the Onondaga Gazette *had increased to eight*. The Post Office for a time was kept in the store of Gen. Granger, but for the greater convenience of the inhabitants of the village, it was thought advisable to move it to the printing office of John Durnford, Esq. He at first objected on account of the lack of room, but finally consented. In due time Mr. Wilkinson came on with the whole contents of the Post Office, mail matter, letter bags, boxes—the whole concern, on his shoulders, without having occasion to go for a second load; upon which Mr. Durnford conclud-

ed he had plenty of room to accommodate all the requisite wants of the department at Syracuse.

On the 9th of June, 1825, the Marquis de La Fayette visited Syracuse. He was escorted from Onondaga Hill, by a large body of citizens on horseback (by way of the Hollow) to the Mansion House, where he received the cordial greetings of the citizens of Syracuse and the surrounding country. Judge Forman, as President of the village, addressed the war-worn veteran in behalf of his fellow citizens, in an appropriate address, replete with generous affection, tendering to the illustrious guest, the heartfelt hospitalities of a grateful people. During the delivery of Judge Forman's address, the illustrious hero stood with his hat in hand leaning on his cane, with the other on his hip, giving his undivided attention to what was said. The gallant general responded in the following words: (Rep. Onon. Reg.)

"The names of Onondaga and Syracuse, in behalf of whose population you are pleased so kindly to welcome me, recall to my mind at the same time, the wilderness that, since the time I commanded on the northern frontier, has been transformed into one of the most populous, well cultivated and enlightened parts of the United States; and, the ancient Sicilian city, once the seat of republican institutions, much inferior, however, to those which in American Syracuse, are founded upon the plain investigation, the unalloyed establishment of the rights of men, and upon the best representative forms of government. No doubt sir, but that among the co-operators of the Revolution, the most sanguine of us could not fully anticipate the rapidity of the improvements, which on a journey of many thousand miles, (the last tour alone, from Washington to this place, amounting to five thousand miles,) have delighted me, and of which this part of the country offers a bright example. Be pleased to accept my personal thanks, and in behalf of the people of Onondaga and Syracuse, to receive the tribute of my sincere and respectful acknowledgments."

This address was received with the most rapturous applause. Salutations were exchanged, a bountiful repast was furnished

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for the guests, and all passed off to the greatest gratification of every one present.

After breakfast, the General and suite, together with the Onondaga committee of escort, left Syracuse in the packet boat Rochester, for Utica, to which place the committee accompanied him.

The conclusion of the great work in which the people of Onondaga had borne so prominent a part, was undoubtedly a primary cause of the improvement of Syracuse. The village was incorporated by Legislative enactment, 13th April, 1825, with the usual powers granted to like incorporations. The charter was amended in 1829 and in 1834, increasing the powers of village officers regulating water works, fire department, &c.

In 1835, the bounds of the original village were considerably enlarged. (See Records.) In 1839-41, the charter was again amended so as to enable the Trustees to hold real estate for the purposes of a village cemetery, which was subsequently purchased, laid out and beautified. In 1842 and in 1845, the charter was again amended for improvement of water works, to empower the Trustees to borrow money on the credit of the corporation, to purchase a lot for a market and other public buildings, and for other purposes.

The first meeting for the election of officers of the village of Syracuse, was held at the School House in said village, 3d of May, 1825, at which Joshua Forman, Amos P. Granger, Moses D. Burnet, Heman Walbridge and John Rogers, were elected Trustees, (Joshua Forman, President;) James Webb, Alfred Northum and Thomas Spencer, Assessors; John Wilkinson, Clerk; John Durnford, Treasurer; Daniel Gilbert, Justice Peace, presiding.

The Trustees proceeded at once to lay out road districts, to organize a fire department, and to purchase engines and apparatus, and other things for the welfare of the village.

The second Board of Trustees was elected 3d of May, 1826. Only fifty-six votes were polled. The Board consisted of M. D. Burnet, H. Gifford, Alfred Northum, Andrew Van Patten



and Henry Young, (M. D. Burnet, second President;) Peter Van Olinda, Clerk. For officers in succeeding years see village records.

The city of Syracuse justly prides herself upon the superiority of her common schools, which may be deemed the model schools of the county, and are scarcely equalled by any in the State. Districts were formerly laid out when the population was scanty and scholars few. Districts that once contained only a small number of inhabitants, have recently become populous, and where the school was attended by a score of children, it has increased ten fold. Within the memory of many, there was only a single square hopper-shaped roof building, used for schools, religious meetings, town hall, and for almost every public purpose.

Through the exertions of Messrs. Harvey Baldwin, Oliver Teall, Aaron Burt, and some others friendly to the cause of education, a charter was obtained for the Syracuse Academy. Mr. Baldwin gave the lot, and under many discouraging embarrassments, the building now occupied as the Orphan Asylum was erected and completed for an Academy, which was supplied with competent teachers, and supported by the benefactions of the before named individuals, and a few others. After the Academy went into operation, the enterprise of the people began to be aroused, jealousies in reference to the Academy being a speculation, were awakened, and district school houses sprung up and were patronized. The cause of education profited by the efforts of these first actors, but the founders were, and continued to be losers, and finally the Academy was abandoned, and the house designed by its originators to subserve the cause of education, providentially became the home of the helpless orphan, and the abode of charity.

On the evening of Friday, the 20th of August, 1841, occurred the ever memorable EXPLOSION, at which time twenty-six of our fellow-citizens were launched unwarned into eternity, and ten others dangerously, and forty-three others severely wounded. A fire originated in a joiners shop, on the towing path side of the Oswego Canal. Here had been stored



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some twenty-five kegs of powder, which exploded with the most terrible consequences. A gloom was cast over the village and the county, which betokened sorrow, and mourning was manifest upon every countenance; sadness pervaded every dwelling, and melancholy every heart. The effects of this explosion were felt for more than twenty miles around. A man upon the deck of a packet boat at Fulton, twenty-six miles distant, heard the report. At De Witt and Jamesville, five miles off, persons were started from their sleep, supposing their chimnies had fallen down. A Manlius, ten miles distant, the earth trembled, and crockery upon a merchant's shelves rattled for the space of several seconds, like the shock from a clap of thunder. At Camillus it was compared to the crash of falling timber. At Onondaga it was supposed to be an earthquake. Although the concussion was tremendous at Syracuse, the report was not so loud as might have been supposed. Glass in the windows a hundred rods distant, were broken. Papers in the County Clerk's Office were thrown from their places upon the floor, and several buildings were more or less injured. The instant the explosion took place, the air was filled with fragments of the building, bits of lumber, &c., which lighted up the heavens with the brightness of day; but in a twinkling it was total darkness. The explosion had extinguished every particle of fire. The scene at this moment was horrible beyond description; men, women and children, screaming in horror; none knew the extent of the calamity, and all were anxious to learn the fate of their friends. Quickly some three thousand persons were gathered, anxiously looking for those whom they most regarded. Very soon lamps were brought, the wounded were carried off, filling the air with sighs and groans. The dead were sought and found, many of them so much disfigured that they could be recognized only by their clothes or the contents of their pockets. For a long time clumps of persons could be seen with lights in all directions, carrying either the dead or the wounded, to their homes. The scenes of that fatal night will long be remembered by the citizens of Syracuse and the county of Onondaga. The next

day the village was shrouded in mourning. The stores were all closed, and business was out of the question. On Sunday the unfortunate victims were consigned to the tomb amidst the sympathies and tears of an afflicted community. The Clergy were most solemn and impassioned in their addresses, and the deepest sadness prevailed, as the several processions wended their way to the lonely tomb.

During the year 1846, Syracuse had so wonderfully increased in size and population, that the subject of securing for it a city charter, began seriously to be discussed. Meetings were held during that and the following year, without coming to any definite conclusion, till in the winter of 1847-8, the matter was brought before the Legislature. There was considerable difference of opinion among the inhabitants, as to the extent of territory which should be embraced. Some were for including the whole original Salt Springs Reservation; others, for only the village of Syracuse. Some for more territory, others for less. Several spirited meetings were held in reference to the subject, which finally resulted in the grant of a charter, including the villages of Syracuse and Salina, with the name of Syracuse. At the first election of city officers, in May, 1848, Harvey Baldwin, Esq., was elected Mayor; James Lynch and Elizur Clark, Aldermen for the first ward; Alexander McKinstry and John B. Burnet, for the second; William H. Alexander and Gardner Lawrence, for the third; and Henry W. Durnford and Robert Furman, for the fourth.

From the returns of a census made for the city of Syracuse, first of January, 1849, it contained a small fraction short of 16,000 inhabitants.

In May, 1849, E. W. Leavenworth, Esq., was elected Mayor; Thomas Feagan, of the first ward, Silas Titus, of the second, Amos Westcott, of the third, and Edward B. Wicks, of the fourth, Aldermen;—Messrs. Lynch, McKinstry, Lawrence, and Durnford, holding over.

The opening of the canal in 1820, may be set down as the real commencement of the city of Syracuse. From this time

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it began to be looked upon as a place inevitably destined to become the grand emporium of the county. There was, however, one continual drawback. During the building of the canal from 1817 to 1820, the sickness had been terrible. No estimate can be made of the fatality of disease at that time. To the foreseeing mind of Judge Forman, something was to be done to improve the health of the place, or his plans would fail; accordingly, during the winter of 1821-22, he procured the passage of a law, in connection with one authorizing the lowering of Onondaga Lake, by which the Commissioners of the Land Office were to draw a map of the swamp and marsh about the villages of Salina and Syracuse. This map was to designate the route of several ditches or drains through the swamp and marsh lands, with an accompanying estimate of the sum necessary to be raised to effect such object. The judges of the county courts were authorized to appoint three discreet freeholders of the county, who should assess the amount of money necessary to be raised on the owners of the lands contiguous to the drains, in proportion as they were supposed to be benefitted. In case of the non-payment of any assessment, the lands could be sold, after being advertised four weeks for the payment, and if not redeemed within six months, with interest at ten per cent., with all costs, the sale was valid and unchangable.

The citizens were allowed to build their own ditches on their own lands, according to the prescribed rules of the commissioners, and the plan laid down on the map. In case they would not, commissioners were authorized themselves to build them, and charge the owners with the cost, and cost of collection. This law at the time, was considered highly arbitrary; but, it was the only feasible project by which the lands could be drained.

In the summer of 1822, the lands were brought under subjection by draining, the place assumed an air of healthfulness, disease and sickness kept at a distance, a marked difference was manifest at once, confidence was placed in the future, and

the past was quickly forgotten. Since the draining of these lands, they have been as healthy as any in the country.

The same year, a considerable portion of the Onondaga Salt Springs Reservation was sold under the direction of the Surveyor General. It was parcelled into small lots and sold to individuals, several of which were taken by Messrs. Kellogg & Sabin, which eventually passed into the hands of the Syracuse Company. A large portion of the present site of the city, and which is now covered with costly buildings, was included in these sales. Very much of this land brought only nominal prices. For instance, the lots on which now stand the stately mansions of Messrs. Lester, Colvin, Woolworth, Minard, Coggsell, Sedgwick, Wilkinson, Burnet, Davis, Forbes, Leavenworth and others, together with a large tract, including the cemetery, brought at the sale, only from eighteen to thirty dollars per acre. The lands east of Fayette Park, including L. H. Redfield's and other lots, sold for six dollars per acre.

General Granger took several of the lots in the swamp, near Lodi, between the canal and turnpike, at ten dollars fifty cents per acre. Citizens agreed not to bid against him, on condition of his clearing the land immediately. This was done at great expense, the same season, and put into a crop of wheat. Most of this ground is now covered with fine buildings.

Another sale of State lands was made in 1828, embracing the lots in the vicinity of the Court-House, and on other portions of the reservation.

Directly after this, roads were improved and made substantial and permanent, low places were filled up, logs and stumps were removed, durable stores and tasteful dwellings were erected, churches with their lofty spires glanced upwards, magnificent hotels, and massive rows of buildings appeared in all directions, canal basins were crowded with boats, lading and unlading, at the spacious warehouses upon the wharves, and wheel carriages loaded with agricultural products lined the extended and well paved streets. All these places have within

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a very few years, become thronged with people full of busi-  
ness, life and activity. The change is like a vision, an en-  
chantment to the many who have lived to witness in so short  
a time, the wonderful transition. But a few years ago, the  
wild flowers grew in spontaneous profusion, all along where  
are now lofty stores and hotels, and wild berries were gath-  
ered abundantly on grounds now occupied by the older churches  
of the city, and the reaper, as he bound his yellow sheaves,  
little thought that so soon, his stubble land would become  
the great thoroughfare of steam and electricity. The time  
has been so short, that it is difficult to realize that so great a  
change has been wrought. In less than a quarter of a cen-  
tury, a city has sprung up from a loathsome swamp, where  
least of all, the traveler would dream of such an event.  
There has never been anything like extra exertion to increase  
the size of the town—its growth has been steady, healthy and  
uniform. Through all periods of pecuniary adversity, it has  
passed its onward career, with a greater demand for dwellings.  
Its business, from year to year, has increased with great reg-  
ularity. As new stores were opened, customers increased, and  
as trade extended itself, the country became more dependant  
upon Syracuse as a market. Although this has been the  
course and consequent increase of business and population for  
near twenty-five years, the same characteristics still exist, and  
it is no unreasonable prediction to remark, that the growth may  
be even more rapid for the succeeding twenty-five years, than  
it has been for the last twenty-five. "Westward the star of em-  
pire lies." The Capitol of the Empire State, will undoubt-  
edly, within that period, be removed to the Central City, and  
there may be many now living, who will witness the inaugu-  
ration of Governors, and the organization of Legislatures, in  
the city of Syracuse.

## CHAPTER XV.

## NOTES ON THE SEVERAL TOWNS OF ONONDAGA COUNTY.

ONONDAGA—SALINA—GEDDES—LYSANDER—CICERO—CLAY—MANLIUS—DE WITT—  
CAMILIUS—ELBRIDGE—VAN BUREN—MARCELLUS—SKANEATELES—POMPEY—  
LA FAYETTE—FABIUS—TULLY—OTISCO—SPAFFORD

TOWN OF ONONDAGA.—This town was incorporated in the year 1798, and was made up of parts of the two tracts of land known as the Onondaga and Salt Springs Reservations. The first permanent settlers, after Ephraim Webster, were Messrs. Asa Danforth and family, and Comfort Tyler.

In the month of February, 1788, Mr. Webster, in company with two Indians, proceeded on a hunting excursion into the lower part of Montgomery County. Late one afternoon they came to a small clearing in the town of Mayfield. They here met a man who lived at no great distance, and desired a night's lodging in his barn. He refused them this privilege, but insisted they should accompany him to his house and spend the night by the fire. They consented, threw off their snow shoes and were soon partaking of a hospitable meal prepared by the lady of their host. During the evening's conversation, Webster remarked, that he lived at Onondaga, a much more fruitful and inviting country than the one where he was located, and finally so much was said in praise of Onondaga, and so effectually each won the confidence of the other, that it was agreed Webster should solicit permission of the Indians for his host to settle on their lands, and if successful, Webster

was to return or send an Indian to inform him of the fact. The man whom Webster so accidentally visited at this time, was Mr. Asa Danforth, who became emphatically *the* pioneer of Onondaga County. An Indian was dispatched in due time with information that Mr. Danforth could settle at Onondaga Hollow, and it was so arranged that he should come out immediately. Early in May, Mr. Danforth embarked with his family, house-hold goods, and farming utensils, in two flat-bottomed boats, accompanied by three boatmen, and after a tedious voyage up the Mohawk River, through Oneida Lake and River, and Onondaga Lake, landed at the mouth of Onondaga Creek. Here they met Mr. Webster, and Mr. Danforth's son, Asa, a young man, who with Comfort Tyler had been sent across the country with the stock intended for the new settlement, and who had arrived some time in advance of the boats. The boats were here lightened of their freight and pushed up the creek to the place where Mr. D. settled, a little south of Onondaga Hollow, May 22d, 1788. The head civil chief of the Onondagas at this time, was called Ca-whic-dota, and the second, Ta-whis-quanta. The family of Mr. D. were treated with great kindness by these chiefs, notwithstanding which they were subject to many privations, and at times were much alarmed for their personal safety by the vindictive spirit manifested by the baser Indians, brought on by the free use of intoxicating drinks. There were two traders, Adam Campbell, and Alexander Mabie, who sold goods to the Indians, and also strong drink, who resided at the Hollow. And it was a practice with many of the Indians to indulge in excessive drinking, and while under the influence of the poison, were boisterous and ugly. Instances were not uncommon among themselves, to quarrel, fight, and kill each other upon the slightest provocation. Murders were not unfrequent, caused by the use of intoxicating liquors, sold by the two white men. The chiefs and sober portion of the tribe wished heartily to be rid of them, for they were the cause of all quarrels, affrays and blood-shed. At one time, in the dead of night, the Danforth family were roused from their slumbers by the

ONONDAGA COUNTY.

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yells of the Indians, and before they reached the scene of strife, one lay dead, murdered by the hand of his own brother. The head chief, Cawhicdota, an excellent man, remonstrated with the traders for selling liquor to his people, and engaged Major Danforth and Comfort Tyler to use their influence to have them desist, but all to no purpose, the traffic was still continued; and what was worse, the villains offered the Indians a barrel of rum, and every Indian a new knife and tomahawk, if they would drive Hatecolhotwas, (Major Danforth, the man who plows the ground,) and his family away. Upon this promise, a large number of Indians prepared themselves to carry the designs of the traders into execution. They had assembled at the castle, armed with their rifles and tomahawks. One seized a burning brand, and all were soon on their way to the house of Major Danforth, bent on the destruction of the family and their habitation. The good old chief, Cawhicdota, found means of communicating the alarm to the family, boldly interposed his authority in their behalf, and finally succeeded in quieting their rage, and in inducing them to relinquish their unhallowed design. Long and faithfully the old chief watched these nefarious traders, and his faithless clansmen. He kept continually advised of any hostile movements, and as often conveyed the evil intelligence meditated against his white friends; and it was entirely owing to his authority and kindness that the whites were preserved from destruction. Such was one of the many instances of peril and alarm with which this family were frequently visited. Amid such scenes of trial and suffering, it is not unnatural to suppose that a woman, who had been bred among the comforts and luxuries of civilized life, should have a desire to visit her once cheerful home, surrounded as it was by friends and companions, made delightful by former social intercourse. Still she murmured not, nor did a syllable of regret escape her lips. Seven long and dreary months had passed and she had not so much as seen the face of a white woman. It is true, the Indian women showed her no little kindness, but they could not be her companions, they spoke not her language; their conver-

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sation was by signs ; there could be no kindred sympathy nor congenial spirit. In December a visit was proposed to their former home. Major Danforth, with his wife and child, set out on a sled, with an axe-man before to clear the way. The first night they lodged "*on board*" at Chittenango. The next night they were the honored guests of the hospitable Skenandoa, at Oneida Castle ; the third night they lodged with their esteemed friend, Judge White, their nearest white neighbor at Sadaquate. The greeting was a joyful one, old tales were revived, the cheering smile of welcome was heartily extended, their hearts were made glad, their ages were renewed, old things were done away, and all things became new ; and none but those who have experienced like privations can appreciate or realize their joy. After a short stay, they proceeded to Brookfield, Massachusetts, the home of her childhood. About the middle of March, their visits being completed, they set out for home, and arrived after an absence of about three months. During their absence the male portion of the family had provided for themselves ; their household duties had not had the assistance of female hands, nor their wardrobe felt the touches of female dexterity. It was a time of universal rejoicing ; even the savages most heartily welcomed them back.

The spring of 1789 opened propitiously. Active preparations were made for the cultivation of spring crops. Potatoes were brought from Whitestown for seed. Their own crops were put in ; the lands of the Indians were prepared, sowed and planted after the fashion of the whites. The young men, Tyler and Danforth, Jr., now thought it expedient for them to visit the land of their birth, for they had left behind them attachments of the tenderest kind. Matrimony was intended, and it would have been most cruel to interpose objections. They departed in high spirits, and in due time returned with their wives, and Mr. John Brown and family. In the course of events Mr. and Mrs. Asa Danforth, Jr., became the father and mother of the first white child born in the county, the late Mrs. Amanda Phillips, wife of the late Col. Phillips, of

Syracuse, and mother of Mrs. Outwater. She was born 14th October, 1789. Prospects became more cheering, these were additions that made *society*—society happy, cheerful and gay. The former gloominess of their situation was in a good degree dispelled. But upon all this there was a draw-back. These pioneers suffered severely for want of a variety of food. The nearest place at which flour could be obtained was at Herkimer, seventy-five miles distant, no mills as yet having been erected nearer. The first substitute for a mill, was made by Major Danforth, in a white oak stump, near his house. It was dug out about three feet deep and two feet in diameter. Half a bushel could be ground at a time, by means of a huge wooden pestle, worked with a spring pole, in appearance not unlike an old fashioned well-sweep. After the grain had been pounded awhile, it was the custom to sift the finer particles out, and return the coarser to undergo a further grinding. Wheat was sometimes pounded in this way, but could not be converted into flour; it was used for puddings and coarser cookery, not for bread. Wheat flour brought from Herkimer was used sparingly, and in cases of sickness. Not long afterwards, Major Danforth purchased a small hand mill, with which to grind his wheat. It was not much larger than a good sized coffee mill; the hopper would hold perhaps half a peck; with this they converted some wheat into ordinary flour, but it had all to be sifted.

About this time Major Danforth, journeying eastward, stopped at a public house on the Herkimer flats. The landlord's name was Shoemaker. A colored man came to him and said, "wont you buy me, massa?" "What is your name?" "Jack Shoemaker, sir." "Do you think you can learn to grind corn in my stump mill, Jack, and grind wheat in my hand mill?" "O yes, massa, me learn quick—me know how to work in mill now, massa." He concluded the bargain with Jack's master, procured some provisions for him, and sent him on to the Hollow, giving him a letter to carry to his new mistress. You must go in, Jack, and tell her you belong to massa Danforth, and ask her where is the mill in which you are

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to grind corn. Jack made all possible diligence, and in due time arrived at the Hollow. He stood a long time and looked at the house, doubting whether it could be the right place; every thing answered the description exactly, but there was no building towering up, to Jack's notions of a mill. He therefore trudged on eighteen miles further, to the house of Mr. Josiah Buck, then the nearest neighbor west. He showed the letter to Mrs. Buck, who quickly judged his mistake, kindly kept him till morning, and set him on the road back again, charging him to stop at the house by the creek, which was the right one, and ask his mistress where his master's mill was; all of which Jack good humoredly performed. But the reader must judge of the poor fellow's consternation when told, that the only mill in the country was in *that* large oak stump, in front of the door, with a huge pestle attached to a sweep. At that early day many of the ablest inhabitants, held colored persons as slaves, whose duty it was made to pound the corn, a task of no ordinary accomplishment. Hence the origin of the term "*niggering corn*"—now obsolete. Not satisfied with this mode of doing things, Major Danforth's mind was bent on erecting mills of his own, which he thought would prove a great inducement to people to settle in the country. Accordingly, in 1792, he went to Utica, employed hands and commenced building a saw-mill. He had in 1791, become possessed of the lot number eighty-one, township of Manlius, (now De Witt,) moved there temporarily in the spring of '92, and during that summer, erected the first saw mill in the county, on the Butternut Creek, about a mile north of Jamesville, (now Dunlop's Mills.) The workmen brought on foot all the necessary gearing for the mill, and Indians were employed to bring nails from Utica. The mill was first covered with bark. Major Danforth brought the saw from Old Fort Schuyler on his shoulder. No boards were used in the county till they were sawed at this mill. In 1793, Major Danforth erected his grist mill, near the saw mill. This work progressed much more expeditiously than the first, for much of the timber, and all other lumber, was readily prepared at the saw

mill. One of the greatest inconveniences was, that there was no road by which to bring on the stones, bolt, and other bulky and heavy articles; however, all obstacles were overcome. Hands were hired as far off as Utica and Whitestown. It took over a week to accomplish the raising, which was attended by able bodied representatives from every settlement within twenty-five miles around. Bark huts were erected for their accommodation, and so great was the anxiety of the scattering inhabitants of the surrounding country, to have these mills completed, that several men labored faithfully many days without pay. After the raising, the whole number present were formed in line, by the master builder, Mr. Abel Myrick, and mustered sixty-four all told, including Indians. At the raising of these mills, the old fashioned practice of using strong drink on public occasions, was followed. The article used at this time, was St. Croix rum; the beverage, whiskey, at that early day, was not known. The flowing bowl had passed freely, and the spirits of all were buoyant. At the conclusion of the labors of raising, it was resolved to have the sharpness of the liquor modified, by the addition of sweetening. Molasses and sugar were eagerly inquired for, but neither were to be found, and such was the scarcity of these commodities, that they were most diligently sought for in vain. Black-strap, sling, toddy, punch and egg-nog, were not to be had in their usual forms. Nothing daunted, they determined on employing a substitute. A consultation was held as to what it should be,—the result of their deliberations was, that as neither sugar, molasses or honey, could be procured, Indian meal, being the sweetest known substance in the country, it should be the substitute. Accordingly the rum was mixed with Indian meal—the improved beverage flowed merrily around—all declared it was the very best the country afforded, as it served a three-fold purpose, viz.: drink, victuals, and if too freely used, it provided lodgings also. From this time forward Major Danforth's reputation became established as a thorough-going business man, ever ready and willing to embark in all the important improvements of the country, and

henceforth became identified with every thing interesting and useful. The adventures, trials and labors of Major Danforth and family, would of themselves furnish materials for an interesting volume.

ASA DANFORTH, was born at Worcester, Massachusetts, July 6, 1746. He early evinced a desire for military distinction, and enrolled himself in the militia, at the age of fourteen. At the commencement of the war of the Revolution, he entered upon the service of his country with a captain's commission, in command of a company of militia. He belonged to the regiment of Col. Danforth Keys, and was engaged in the battle of Lexington. The official papers of Capt. Danforth were preserved by him to the close of the war, and have since been placed among the archives of the Historical Society, at Worcester, Massachusetts, where they still remain.

At the instance of General Israel Putnam, Capt. Danforth joined the army of the United States, and served through the war as we have been informed, with a Major's rank and commission.

At the time he entered the army, he was the owner of extensive iron works, which property he sold, and received his pay for, in Continental money, which soon after depreciated; and, at the close of the war, he found himself destitute of property. This was the cause of his leaving Massachusetts, and of his seeking a new home, whereby his shattered fortune might be repaired. He located himself in the town of Mayfield, Montgomery County, where he spent a few years, and where he had his first interview with Mr. Webster.

General Danforth occupied a wide space in the early history of Onondaga County. His whole life was one of eventful interest. He passed through all the trials and sufferings incident to a patriot and soldier of that "mighty period which tried men's souls"—the American Revolution; and, after having lost the means of securing for himself and family, a competent support through life, by his earnestness to serve

his country, he was forced, as it were, penniless upon the world. In this hour of his adversity, his fortitude and courage never forsook him. These traits, with which in a remarkable degree he was endowed, enabled him successfully to stem the torrent of disappointment and misfortune, and exemplified in a remarkable manner, the steadfast resolution and indomitable perseverance of the man. Nothing daunted, he pushed far beyond the abodes of civilized men, and voluntarily shared all the toils and dangers attendant upon the life of a forester, isolated from the blessings of civilization, in a land inhabited only by savages. With a character, bold, determined, independent and uncompromising, where his own interests and the good of his fellow men were to be advanced; with a physical constitution capable of enduring every vicissitude of climate and fatigue; with a mind thoroughly imbued with every lofty sentiment of courtesy and honor comporting with the dignity of a citizen and a soldier, he was most admirably calculated to assume the high responsibility and position of a pioneer in a wilderness land.

Upon his arrival at Onondaga, he found himself and his family the only white persons (except Webster) in the country. Judge White at Sadaquate, (Whitesboro) fifty miles distant, was his nearest neighbor on the east. A British garrison was still kept at Oswego, which took every occasion to foment discords and jealousies between the Indians and their new neighbors, which was a source of continual annoyance to them. The tide of emigration had not then set towards the wilds of western New-York. Single-handed and alone, he encountered the hardships, privations and discouragements of a frontier settler, and prepared the way for others less bold and adventurous than himself; and, as the lonely woodmen, one by one wended their way into this land of promise and prospective plenty, this fatherly man kindly took them by the hand, welcomed them on, and pointed out to them the most favorable places for habitation.

He was a striking example of pure and disinterested benevolence. No man who passed his hospitable threshold, but

was received with kindness and affection, and none retired from it but with feelings of regret. During a long and gloomy period, his house was the seat of hospitality, the resting place of the traveler, the home of the stranger, and the abode of charity. The bounties of his cabin were freely dispensed to all who entered; and, although thousands shared the blessings of his board, it was always without money and without price.

From his early sojourn here, and for a long period, he was personally and intimately known to every individual on the Military Tract. He was looked up to as a father, and enjoyed for many years, the high consideration of bearing paternal sway among the primitive settlers of this favored country. He knew and was known of every one; his counsel and advice were sought and received with respect and deference, and none had occasion to regret their solicitations or confidence.

His capacity and enterprise fitted him for almost every station and duty in active life; hence, he became identified with every interest which tended to promote the welfare of his fellow-men, and advance the prosperity of the country.

He enjoyed in an eminent degree the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens. Consequently, he was often called upon to fill the most important offices of trust and honor in the county, and he performed the duties assigned him, with credit to himself and with satisfaction to his constituents.

For a number of years he was a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas; was one term a Senator for the Western District; and Superintendent of the Onondaga Salt Springs, and held numerous other offices of less importance, in all which stations, he exhibited a high degree of capacity and manly bearing. Besides, he was for many years, from the first organization of the militia, the highest military officer in Onondaga County; ascending the several grades from Major to Major General; at a period too, when a military commission implied worth, and conferred distinction.

He was a man possessing a large fund of general intelligence, was remarkable for his social conversational powers,



for the kindness of his disposition, his readiness to oblige his neighbors, and those refined and softer feelings which adorn the human heart.

After a long and active life, more than thirty years of which was spent at Onondaga; during the whole period of which he was a leading man in all the most important enterprises of the day, he ceased from his labors.

He may be with propriety (as he often has been) styled the father of the county; an appellation well deserved.

He died at his residence, at Onondaga Hollow, September 2d, 1818, in the seventy-third year of his age, universally lamented and mourned by an extensive circle of friends.

THADDEUS M. WOOD, was born 9th of March, 1772, at Lenox, Massachusetts. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College, with the class of 1790. He entered upon the pursuit of his legal studies, with Thomas R. Gould, Esq., and closed them in the office of Joseph Kirkland, Esq., of Utica, immediately after which, in 1794, he came to Onondaga Hollow, and opened a law office, being the first lawyer who established himself in the county. He soon became distinguished for his legal capacity, and during his life exercised a prominent influence throughout the county.

He became widely known as a military man, was Lieutenant Colonel Commandant, in 1809, in which capacity he was extremely active and useful during the war of 1812. He was elevated to the rank of Brigadier General in 1818, and to the rank of a Major General, in 1820.

General Wood was a gentleman of marked and well defined characteristics, both of mind and manners, and no one could be much in his society without understanding many traits of his character, while others were not so readily disclosed to the public gaze.

In his manners he was often abrupt, sometimes even blunt and perhaps rough, but his thoughts flowed with great rapidity and power, while he often gave to them a sudden and impulsive expression.



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the first part of the reign of King Henry the Fourth, from the year 1399 to the year 1413. In this part of the reign, the king was engaged in a series of wars with France, Scotland, and Ireland. The most important of these wars was the war with France, which began in 1400 and ended in 1413. The king's army was defeated at the battle of Agincourt in 1415, but he was able to secure a truce with France in 1419. The king's reign was also marked by a series of internal conflicts, including the rebellion of the Earl of Arundel in 1409 and the rebellion of the Earl of Lancaster in 1411. The king died in 1413, and was succeeded by his son, King Henry the Fifth.

The second part of the reign of King Henry the Fourth, from the year 1413 to the year 1422. In this part of the reign, the king was engaged in a series of wars with France, Scotland, and Ireland. The most important of these wars was the war with France, which began in 1415 and ended in 1422. The king's army was defeated at the battle of Agincourt in 1415, but he was able to secure a truce with France in 1419. The king's reign was also marked by a series of internal conflicts, including the rebellion of the Earl of Arundel in 1409 and the rebellion of the Earl of Lancaster in 1411. The king died in 1413, and was succeeded by his son, King Henry the Fifth.

The third part of the reign of King Henry the Fourth, from the year 1422 to the year 1429. In this part of the reign, the king was engaged in a series of wars with France, Scotland, and Ireland. The most important of these wars was the war with France, which began in 1415 and ended in 1422. The king's army was defeated at the battle of Agincourt in 1415, but he was able to secure a truce with France in 1419. The king's reign was also marked by a series of internal conflicts, including the rebellion of the Earl of Arundel in 1409 and the rebellion of the Earl of Lancaster in 1411. The king died in 1413, and was succeeded by his son, King Henry the Fifth.

The fourth part of the reign of King Henry the Fourth, from the year 1429 to the year 1431. In this part of the reign, the king was engaged in a series of wars with France, Scotland, and Ireland. The most important of these wars was the war with France, which began in 1415 and ended in 1422. The king's army was defeated at the battle of Agincourt in 1415, but he was able to secure a truce with France in 1419. The king's reign was also marked by a series of internal conflicts, including the rebellion of the Earl of Arundel in 1409 and the rebellion of the Earl of Lancaster in 1411. The king died in 1413, and was succeeded by his son, King Henry the Fifth.



Wm. J. M. Wood

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As a lawyer, it is perhaps sufficient to say, that in the early part of the present century, when Kellogg, and Forman, and Sabin, were in the height of their practice and the zenith of their powers, the Onondaga bar had no man superior to Gen. Wood, and perhaps not his equal, in all things. If the laws of real property and the action of ejectment, (which then embraced the most important suits tried in the county,) were better understood by Forman and Kellogg, Gen. Wood fully equalled them in his general acquaintance with the common law, in the investigation and preparation of his causes, and especially in the sagacity and astuteness which he brought into exercise on the trial of his suits. He omitted to present no favorable view of his clients case, no point which fortified his action or his defense. And on the other hand, he watched his opponent with an eagle eye, never failing to discover the weak points in his case, or to make every needful objection in the progress of the cause. His client's rights were safe, not in his learning and abilities only, but also in his remarkable care and his unwearied devotion. He looked upon his clients as his wards, and extended his guardianship to the protection of all their rights. At about the age of fifty, Gen. Wood's large real estate, and the necessary cares of increasing property and other pursuits, began rapidly to withdraw him from his profession, and he gave but little attention to its duties, except so far as was necessary in his own business. For twenty years and more, during most of which time he was in company with the late Hon. George Hall, Gen. Wood had a very extensive practice. The firms of Wood & Hall, who were Democrats, and Forman & Sabin, who were Federalists, doing the most business by far, of any then in the county, unless their practice may have been equalled by that of Daniel Kellogg, at Skaneateles. The Hon. Samson Mason, the Hon. Philo Gridley, and the Hon. Asher Tyler, are some of the many students who laid the foundation of their legal learning under his instructions.

During the war of 1812, he was a Colonel, and within twenty-four hours after notice of the threatened descent of

the British at Oswego, he was on his way to the scene of danger, with most of the regiment under his command. And again, when the alarm of an invasion at Sackett's Harbor was given soon after, Gen. Wood, at a moments warning, dispatched messengers throughout the county, aroused the slumbering warriors of the Onondaga nation, and with his regiment and Indian allies, at once repaired to the north. As an officer, he was in appearance, remarkably fine looking, active and energetic, and had an opportunity presented, those who knew him, will not doubt but his conduct would have commanded the approbation of the public, and the admiration of his friends.

As a politician, Gen. Wood was ardent, active, untiring and honest. He embraced the principles of the Democratic party in early life, and supported them with ability and vigor. When the Democratic party was divided, he became a Clintonian, and continued such till the death of Mr. Clinton, and with most of the leaders of that party, supported Gen. Jackson, in 1828; and left him in 1832, or before. He took an active interest in public affairs till the close of his life, and at all times judged and spoke of public men and public affairs, with all that acuteness and discrimination, for which he was remarkable.

Gen. Wood was celebrated throughout the State for the pungency of his wit, and quickness and severity of his retort. He was never at a loss for a reply, either at the bar or in private conversation, and the opponent who escaped from his wit and his satire uninjured, was fortunate indeed. Onondaga was almost as well known in the State, by the wit of Gen. Wood, as by the sarcasms of Gen. Root, or the enterprise and foresight of Forman and Geddes.

As a neighbor, Gen. Wood was kind and obliging, ready at all times to grant those little daily kindnesses which good neighborhood so constantly require.

As a father, no man was more indulgent or more affectionate. With something of a rough exterior and an austere manner, fountains of the warmest affection for his children,

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ever flowed from his heart. In speaking of them at the age of half a century, he would often melt down to tears. Though some of them sometimes annoyed him by their indiscretions, and perhaps even irritated his rather impulsive nature, still, perhaps the most marked characteristic of Gen. Wood was his fondness for his children, and his acute susceptibility to all that affected their happiness or their fame.

Gen. Wood's fondness for real estate was quite a passion. He was ready to buy, but never to sell. He, at an early day became a very large landholder in the county—at Manlius, at Liverpool, Salina, Onondaga Hollow, and between the Hollow and Syracuse, and at various other places. This passion also may have led to, or sprung out of another—a decided fondness for agriculture—at least its theory and study. Gen. Wood was not a good practical farmer. His lands were far too extensive, and his other pursuits were far too numerous and pressing. But he took a great interest in agricultural pursuits, the introduction of improved breeds of cattle, and in the meetings and discussions of Agricultural Societies.

Gen. Wood was never idle. If not engaged in the active duties of life, with which he was generally overwhelmed, he was storing his mind with those funds of knowledge, which combined with his wit, and a happy and joyous disposition, made him a most agreeable, entertaining and instructive companion. He knew the history of Onondaga, from its early settlement till his death, in all the minuteness of its detail—had been himself a prominent actor in all its stages, and by the aid of a careful observation, and a most retentive memory, was furnished with an amount of knowledge on this subject, not now possessed by any of his survivors. This, he was at all times ready and happy to impart, and whoever drew from that fountain would be pleased to repair to it again.

Gen. Wood was truthful in all his intercourse, moral in his habits, and possessed of a nice sense of honor. When severely pressed for money, and most anxious to raise it, and willing to give his own note, well endorsed, to obtain it, he

has been known to refuse to promise *on his honor* to meet the note when due, as that would *compel him to pay it*.

General Wood had his faults, as well as his virtues, and the truth of history requires that they should not be passed over in silence. He was never popular. Lawyers are, from the nature of their profession, almost obliged to make enemies; but General Wood had more than the usual number. There were many of them made no doubt in the ordinary course of legal proceedings—some perhaps by the pungency of his wit or the bitterness of his sarcasm, but more, probably from other causes. His resolute determination not to sell his real estate added to a most deeply seated habit of procrastination, eventually very much embarrassed him in his pecuniary affairs. He was at an early day sued more or less, and finally he paid a large amount of his debts in executions. These suits he often delayed, by pleas or demurrers, using the means which the Courts then furnished to obtain time; sometimes, perhaps, by technical objections to obtain a bill of costs, or defeat a just cause of action. This was one ground of complaint. Being pressed by his own debts, it is also said that he sometimes pressed his own debtors more severely than he should have done, and that his conduct was unkind and oppressive. This may have been so, but the state of his own private affairs must be his apology, not his justification. He also had more or less litigation with his father, and perhaps with some other of his relatives, and with former partners in business, particularly with George Hall and Benajah Byington. The suit with Hall was commenced about the year 1825, and was a bill filed by Hall for the settlement of their partnership accounts. This suit was more than twenty years in the Court of Chancery, and was finally brought to a close by the Executors of Hall, on the one side, and the surviving Administrator of Wood on the other. The history of the Byington suit is very much the same. He was considered litigious in the community, but he did not bring needless suits, nor was he greatly in the habit of resorting to the law; but being often sued himself by others, and defending many of the suits for delay or otherwise,

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he acquired a reputation in the popular mind which did not justly belong to him. Whatever may have been the respective merits of these various controversies, the effect no doubt was to make General Wood unpopular in the community, and to injure his reputation to a certain extent. But they did not destroy the confidence of his friends in the native kindness of his heart, the goodness of his disposition, and the general integrity of his character. While they regretted his imperfections, as we all should, and might more profitably our own, they admired him for his talents, his learning, and his wit, and they loved him for his many social virtues. And when the grave finally shut him from our view, few among us but felt that a great man had fallen, and that many kind, and generous, and noble qualities were buried in his tomb. He died at his residence, at Onondaga Hollow, January 10th, 1836, aged sixty-four years.\*

In connection with the distinguished members of the bar of Onondaga County, the names of William H. Sabin and George Hall, Esqrs., deserve a place.

Mr. Sabin commenced the practice of law at an early period, in company with Judge Forman, and may justly take rank among the leading men of the profession. Without going into extensive detail, we would mention that Mr. Sabin was remarkable for his minute historical knowledge of men and events connected with the American Revolution, which eminently qualified him for the management of ejectment suits, which in his time were most numerous and important, and required the utmost skill, talent and knowledge, successfully to conduct. The principal witnesses in these suits were soldiers of the Revolution. Many of the suits were brought, upon fraudulent claims, which were supported by corrupt witnesses, and it required no ordinary tact to arrive at the truth. For all emergencies connected with the management of these suits, Mr. Sabin was fully adequate, and if a false witness came

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\* For the above delineation of the character of General Wood, the author is under obligation to the Hon. E. W. Leavenworth.

upon the stand, he was sure to be detected by the scrutiny and historical knowledge of Counsellor Sabin, and fortunate indeed would be the delinquent who escaped the lash of his censure. Instances might be multiplied to an indefinite extent relative to the sagacity and abilities of Mr. Sabin as a lawyer. For a long time he held a high position at the Onondaga Bar, and will long be remembered there as one whose place can scarcely be supplied.

Honorable George Hall held a prominent place at the Bar of Onondaga County, and was noted for his high legal attainments, for the solidity of his judgment, his sterling sense, and many of those commanding attributes and characteristics which have ever been pre-eminent at the Onondaga Bar.

He was for a long time a partner of General Wood, held many of the most important offices in the county, and was one who, in every position in which he was placed, received the confidence and esteem of his professional cotemporaries and fellow-citizens.

JASPER HOPPER was born in the city of New-York, on the 10th of June, 1770. His father then owned and occupied a house on the corner of Ann street and Broadway. The family of Jasper Hopper are of Dutch descent.

Two brothers, Andreas and Matthias, emigrated from Holland to New-York, about the year 1620. Andreas, settled in Bergen County, New-Jersey, and Matthias on the Island of Manhattan, where he purchased a farm; and to him grants of lands were made along the Hudson River, including Greenwich. Andrew Hopper, father of Jasper Hopper, had four brothers, viz.: John, Wessel, Yellis and Matthew. The original Dutch name was written Hoppen.

There was a settlement in New-Jersey named Hopperstown. The name of the father of Andrew Hopper, was John, who was a Lieutenant in Gen. Harmer's campaign among the Indians; was severely wounded in the battle in which that general was defeated, and left for dead upon the field, but finally recovered.

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Andrew Hopper removed to Bloomingdale, to a place bought of his brother Yellis, having previously sold twenty acres which he had inherited from his father, on the bank of the Hudson. The subject of this sketch, was a son of Andrew Hopper, and was "christened" by Dominie Ritzena, by the name of "Casperas." Jasper Hopper was married to Charlotte Newcomb, October 4, 1800. The Newcomb family were one of the oldest and most respectable in Dutchess County. They are now in possession of a farm which has been handed down through several generations, now occupied by John Hopper Newcomb, near Pleasant Valley.

Jasper Hopper received his education in the city of New-York. At the age of eighteen, he left the city and entered the office of the Secretary of State as a Clerk, where, by his diligence, assiduity, strict integrity, and his urbanity of manner, he won the respect and confidence of the Secretary, and all others with whom he became acquainted or had intercourse. While in Albany, he was for two winters, Clerk of the House of Assembly; both of which sessions, the House unanimously voted him the extra allowance of two hundred and fifty dollars. The duty was very laborious, and he was frequently obliged to write all night to keep up with the business.

On the third of November, 1791, Jasper Hopper was appointed Deputy Secretary of State, Lewis Allaire Scott at that time being Secretary. He was then only twenty years of age, and continued to hold the office till the death of Mr. Scott, which occurred in the winter of 1798. Upon the death of Mr. Scott, the friends of Mr. Hopper exerted themselves in his behalf, to procure for him the appointment of Secretary of State. Many prominent names appear on his petition. Mr. Scott himself, before his death, drew up a memorial to that effect; but, owing to his youth, rather than his inexperience and want of ability to perform the duties of the office, his claims were rejected by the Council of Appointment, and Mr. Thomas Tillotson was appointed. Mr. Hopper's services were however, considered indispensable to the office, and he was retained as Deputy Secretary, till he left for Onondaga, in 1802. For

the first three years, while in the office of the Secretary, he served for such compensation as the generosity of Mr. Scott dictated, of which, however, no complaint was made. For the two succeeding years, he received the small allowance of fifty pounds per annum from the State. After 1795, he had the whole charge of the office, as Mr. Scott's health did not permit him to perform any of the duties, and received a reasonable compensation. He was the immediate predecessor of the venerable Archibald Campbell, as Deputy Secretary of State.

In 1799, Jasper Hopper was appointed and admitted an honorary member of the Law Society of the city of Albany, in which was included many of the most distinguished gentlemen of the bar, in the State.

In the spring of 1802, he was appointed Clerk of the county of Onondaga, to which place he immediately came with his commission in his pocket, and entered at once upon the duties of his office. He located at the east end of Onondaga Hollow, and kept the office there in his dwelling house for several years. Afterwards, the office was removed to the west end of the Hollow, where it remained till its removal to the Hill.

In 1803, he received the appointment of Supreme Court Commissioner, and in 1804, the appointment of Commissioner for taking affidavits to be read in Chancery. In 1810, he was superceded in the office of County Clerk by G. W. Olmsted, and in 1811 was re-appointed, which office he held till the year 1818.

Jasper Hopper was appointed a Marshal for taking the United States census of 1810, when the county of Onondaga comprised the present counties of Cortland, Onondaga, and a part of Oswego. This laborious duty, he performed in his usual prompt and energetic manner, to the entire satisfaction of all.

He was appointed keeper of the military stores at the arsenal, located at Onondaga Hollow, during the war of 1812, and afterwards so long as they remained in that location.



He was also a United States Commissary for the procuring and distributing of rations to the army, on their marches to and from the Frontier.

For a period of nineteen years, he was Post Master at Onondaga Hollow, and enjoyed the confidence of the different heads of the Post Office Department, to such a degree that he was retained in office under every administration, without distinction of party. The office at that time was quite an important one, being a distributing office for the county and parts adjacent.

Mr. Hopper was a sincere friend to the cause of education; he took an active part in procuring the charter for Onondaga Academy, was a liberal subscriber to the endowment fund for that institution, and aided every way in his power, to establish it on a firm foundation, and to make its condition flourishing and prosperous. He was one of the Trustees named in the original charter of the Academy, and continued to be one of the Board up to his decease, and was always remarkably prompt and punctual in his attendance at all their meetings.

He was for a long time connected with the leaders of the Democratic Republican party in this county, remained steadfast to its principles to the end of his life, and was associated with Gen. Wood, Hon. Reuben Humphreys, Dr. Rawson, Jonas Earll and other distinguished leaders of the party, in all its affairs.

As has been before stated, Mr. Hopper came to Onondaga in 1802, at which time our county was comparatively a wilderness, and he may be set down as one among many, who were with the early pioneers, most instrumental in opening and improving the way of our county's prosperity.

Mr. Hopper died at his late residence, at Onondaga Hollow, June 30th, 1848, aged seventy-nine years.

He was a man of remarkable kindness and docility of disposition, very amiable, courteous, social and obliging. Few men who have been as much in public life, escape with so little censure, or expose themselves to fewer assaults from politi-

cal opponents. His whole course was marked by a strict adherence to principle, dictated by an honest heart.

Entering very early in life upon public duties, he enjoyed throughout a long and well tried political course, the entire confidence of his friends, and even his political adversaries respected and admired his unflinching integrity and stability of purpose. Personal enemies, it is presumed he had none, and those who held political opinions different from his, which might have engendered animosities, were ready to bury them with the close of his official career. At his death, none could rise up and say he was not a pure patriot—an upright, honorable man.

Although for several years, ago and infirmity had in a measure deprived him of the privileges of promiscuous society; still, in the social circle in which he was enabled to move, he was highly esteemed; and, in domestic life, he fully sustained all of its most tender relations. His memory will long be held in grateful remembrance throughout the county, while his name and character will be cherished and revered by his numerous relatives and intimate friends.

The engraved likeness of Mr. Hopper accompanying this sketch, was taken from a miniature picture executed while he was Deputy Secretary at the age of twenty.

The name of Nicholas Mickles, is one which deserves to be remembered among the pioneers of Onondaga. He established himself at the Hollow at an early day, and was distinguished for his public spirit, benevolence and liberality, which tended to promote the best interests of community and the public at large. He established the Onondaga Furnace, and carried it on till his decease, which occurred at the Hollow, in August, 1827. During the war of 1812, he was employed by the Government to cast shot and shell for the army and navy. It was with regard to the Government property at this place, that Mr. Secretary Armstrong committed a most laughable mistake, which was noticed at the time in most of the public prints in the Union. A large amount of shot and shell was lying at the Onondaga Furnace, which was wanted

by the fleet on Lake Ontario. Secretary Armstrong directed one of the naval commanders then at Oswego, to proceed forthwith with an armed vessel, via. the Oswego River to Onondaga Hollow, and remove the Government property from that place to Oswego. The obstructions at Oswego Falls were found to be quite too formidable to allow of the execution of the Secretary's order, and the project was abandoned. The joke was too good to be kept a secret, and its publication created much merriment at the Hon. Secretary's expense.

After the Danforth family, Comfort Tyler and the Brown family, there settled at the Hollow, the Pattersons, Job Tyler, Peter Tenbroeck, General Lewis, Cornelius Longstreet, Peter Young, Joseph Forman, John Adams, George Kibbe, Drs. William and Gurdon Needham, Nicholas Mickles, Wm. H. Sabin, Jasper Hopper, Aaron Bellows, George Hall, Joseph Swan, and others.

In the summer of 1796, John Cantine, assisted by Gideon Seely, under the direction of the Surveyor General, surveyed the Onondaga Reservation, and in the fall of that year, Gideon Seely and Comfort Tyler bid off, at the sales in Albany, twenty-one lots, of two hundred and fifty acres each, at two dollars per acre. Mr. Seely made the road from Samuel A. Beebe's to the south line of the town, including a bridge across the west branch of Onondaga Creek. The first saw mill built in town was by Turner Fenner, on the west branch of Onondaga Creek, in 1793. General Danforth erected a saw and grist mill, in 1794, on what is now called the Kirk Farm.

The first town meeting for Onondaga, was held at the house of Asa Danforth, who presided, April, 1798. Ephraim Webster was chosen Supervisor, and Jabez Webb, Town Clerk; Samuel Scaring, Daniel Earll and Sier Curtis, Assessors; and Elisha Alvord, Nehemiah Earll, Jr., and Elijah Lawrence, Commissioners of Roads. At this meeting swine were voted to run at large, provided they were yoked and rung. The meeting was adjourned to the house of Dr. Allen Beach.

Annual town meeting for 1799, James Geddes was chosen

Supervisor, and Orris Curtis, Town Clerk; John Ellis, Cornelius Schoutens, and Sieur Curtis, Assessors. Meeting adjourned to the house of William Laird. Town meeting for April, 1800, Sieur Curtis was chosen Supervisor, and Orris Curtis, Town Clerk.

George Hall, Esq., opened a law office at Onondaga Hollow, in 1802. Joshua Forman and William H. Sabin, commenced the practice of law in partnership, 1803. Medad Curtis was a law student with Thaddeus M. Wood, and Daniel Mosely with Forman and Sabin. Dr. William Needham located at the Hollow as a physician, in 1793, and his brother, Gurdon Needham, in 1795. He kept the first school at the Hollow in 1796. Dr. Bissell practiced medicine a number of years at the Hollow. Rev. Samuel Kirkland is believed to be the first reformed minister who ever preached in the county of Onondaga. He frequently officiated at Onondaga Hollow, to the white people and to the Indians.

It should have been mentioned in another place, that the building of the new church edifice for the Onondagas was greatly aided by a generous donation from "the society for the propagation of the Gospel among the Indians," of which Hon. Lemuel Shaw, Chief Justice of Massachusetts, is President, and Rev. D. Parkman, of Boston, Secretary. A representation having been made to them of the need of assistance, the Society promptly voted an appropriation of *three hundred dollars* towards the completion of the church. We may add, as an interesting fact in this connection, that an active member of the Executive Committee of the above named Society, is the Rev. Samuel K. Lothrop, of Boston, a grandson of the Rev. Samuel Kirkland. (See page 242, Vol. I.)

For more than twelve years Mrs. Danforth was the only communicant in the country. She was afterwards joined by the wife of General Lewis and others. Rev. Daniel Nash and Davenport Phelps, (Episcopalians,) were the next ministers who officiated here. Others, of the Presbyterian denomination soon succeeded. Rev. Messrs. Wallace and Woodruff were missionaries, who occasionally officiated.

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"*The First Presbyterian Society*" was established on the "Hill," but the people, finding it rather fatiguing to climb up there every Sunday, resolved to have a society and church nearer home. Accordingly in November, 1809, the "*Onondaga Hollow Religious Society*" was organized. John Adams, Aaron Bellows, Nicholas Mickles, Thaddeus M. Wood and Joshua Forman, were chosen Trustees, George Hall and Joseph Swan, presiding. Joseph Swan was chosen Secretary, which office he has held to this day, (1849.) Rev. Mr. Davenport officiated at this time. In February, 1810, the Rev. Dirck C. Lansing was called to the charge of the church, and remained with them as pastor to May, 1814. He was succeeded in the following order, by Rev. Ebenezer J. Leavenworth, Rev. Samuel T. Mills, Rev. James H. Mills, Rev. Washington Thatcher, Rev. Elijah Buck, Rev. Moses Ingalls, Rev. Abel Cutler, Rev. Mr. Howell, Rev. Geo. H. Hulin, and Rev. Wm. W. Collins. The church edifice was erected in 1810-11.

A Post Office was established at Onondaga Hollow in the year 1794, and Comfort Tyler appointed Post Master. This was the first Post Office established in the county. One however was established at Cayuga, then in Onondaga County, the same year. George Kibbe was Post Master at the Hollow in 1801; George Hall succeeded him in 1802, and Jasper Hopper in 1803. So late as 1812, letters were distributed from the Post Office at "Onondaga Valley," to people living in the towns of Camillus, Pompey, Marcellus, Otisco, Spafford, Ly-sander and Manlius.

George Kibbe was the first regular merchant who sold goods in the town of Onondaga, in 1800.

In 1803, there were but eight frame houses in the Hollow. In 1809 a frame school house was erected; the same is still occupied as a school house, in good repair; previously a log one had been built and occupied near where the Academy now stands.

Onondaga Academy was incorporated and organized in 1813, and the building erected in 1814. It was endowed by

the State, by the gift of a lot of land, (number nine,) township of Lysander, belonging to the Literature Fund. It has held its way with other Academies, and many of the distinguished men of our county, owe to it their obligations for the advantages they have received in its halls. Rev. Caleb Alexander was its first principal. Although he had been educated for the ministry, he devoted most of his long life to teaching, and may be said to have been the founder of several institutions of learning. To his exertions and influence, were the public greatly indebted for the establishment of Onondaga Academy, of which he was the Principal for many years. It was through his influence that Fairfield Academy was established. He was elected first President of Hamilton College, but declined the appointment. He was a man of great learning and varied acquirements, and the author of several systems of education, translations, &c., and excelled in conversational powers. He was a man greatly respected and beloved. He died at Onondaga Hollow, in April, 1828, aged seventy-two years.

In 1808, an act was passed authorizing the Governor of the State to deposit five hundred stand of arms at Onondaga, for the defense of the frontier, and such quantities of ammunition and military stores, as in his opinion would be necessary, in case of an invasion. The Governor was also authorized and empowered to provide, at the expense of the State, a suitable place for the keeping of said arms and military stores, in good order, and fit for immediate service, and to appoint keepers of said places of deposit. Accordingly, in 1812, was built, under the direction of the Governor, the Arsenal on the hill east of the Hollow, where for a number of years was a large deposit of arms, &c. As a military store-house, it has long since been abandoned; it is now fast falling to decay.

A newspaper was first established at Onondaga Hollow by Thomas Crittenden Fay, in December, 1811, entitled THE LYNX, having for its motto, "Liberty and my native country." Published every Wednesday, and delivered to subscribers in the village of Onondaga Valley, at two dollars per

annum. In closing his prospectus, he says, "I shall endeavor to promote the nation's interest, with the industry of the BEAVER, while I watch its enemies with the eyes of a LYNX."

It was in this office (The Lynx) that the subsequent distinguished editor of the Albany Evening Journal made his debut in the art of arts. Mr. Weed, in the short space of about twelve months, became devil, printer, journeyman, editor and proprietor of the memorable Lynx.

The "Onondaga Register" made its first appearance at Onondaga Hollow, in September, 1814, edited by Lewis H. Redfield, Esq., and was continued to May, 1829, when the Register was transferred to Syracuse, and brought out in a new dress, under the title of "Onondaga Register and Syracuse Gazette." It is believed that the first iron press introduced into the county, was by Mr. Redfield, who also introduced the first composition roller, one of the most valuable improvements connected with printing ever invented.

Russell Webb and James S. Castle, published a paper at Onondaga Hollow, in 1832, entitled the "Citizens' Press." It was discontinued after a publication of six months.

The "Onondaga Gazette," by Evander Morse, was established at Onondaga Hill, in 1816. Mr. Morse sold the establishment to Cephas S. McConnell, and in August, 1821, title was changed to Onondaga Journal. McConnell sold out to Vivus W. Smith, in 1826, who continued it till 1829, when he removed to Syracuse and joined Mr. Wyman in the Onondaga Standard. Since 1829, there has been no paper published on the Hill.

One of the first settlers at Onondaga West Hill, was William Laird, in 1795. He became the first purchaser of lot number one hundred and fourteen, and kept a log tavern, the first kept on the Hill. He committed suicide, by hanging, in October, 1802. Nehemiah Earll, Daniel Earll and Jabez Webb, settled on the Hill in 1796. Jabez Webb was killed by the fall of a tree, in 1806. He was the first purchaser from the State of lot one hundred and eighteen. Simeon and Reuben West, moved to the Hill in 1805-6. Judge Strong



took up his abode on the Hill in 1802. He kept the first school ever kept on the Hill, from November, 1802, three winter terms of four or five months each, in a log building, which stood near where the old Court House used to stand. A frame school house was erected near the same place in 1807. He was a Deputy under High Sheriff Col. Elijah Phillips, four years, and Under Sheriff to Sheriffs Earll and Rust, during their periods of office. Dr. Salmon Thayer was the first Physician on the Hill in 1800, succeeded by Dr. Stewart.

The first Agricultural Society formed in the county of Onondaga, was at Onondaga Hill, in the spring of 1819. The Legislature passed a law during the session of 1818-19, by which a large fund was raised for the benefit of Agricultural Societies throughout the State. Of this fund Onondaga County became entitled to three hundred dollars, on condition that the county should raise an equal amount, and an Agricultural Society should be organized. The first meeting was held on the 4th of May, 1819, at which a constitution was adopted, and the following officers chosen, viz.: Dan Bradley, President, Squire Munro, Martin Cossit, Augustus Wheaton, Vice Presidents; Job Tyler, Recording Secretary; Geo. Hall and A. Yelverton, Corresponding Secretaries; Leonard Bacon, Treasurer; H. L. Granger, Auditor; L. H. Redfield, D. W. Forman, O. W. Brewster, Committee of Publication. The first Fair was held at Onondaga Hollow, November 2d, 1819; an address delivered by the President, and Premiums amounting to over two hundred dollars, were awarded.

St. John's Church, Onondaga Hill, was organized by Rev. Davenport Phelps, 26th November, 1803. It was succeeded by Zion Church, which was organized in the summer of 1816. The Clergy have been, Rev. Messrs. Ezekiel G. Gear, Milton Wilcox, Thomas K. Peck, Augustus L. Converse, John McCarty, Geo. L. Hinton, John W. Cloud, S. W. Beardsley and Marshall Whiting. Since 1839, only occasional services have been held.

The "*First Presbyterian Society of Onondaga*," was formed on the Hill, at the log tavern, kept by Daniel Earll; pre-

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sent, Joshua Forman, Jasper Hopper, John Ellis, Jonah Ellis, Jonas C. Baldwin, John Adams, and Oliver R. Strong. Ministers previous to 1806 were Rev. Messrs. Higgins and Hely, Rev. Dirck C. Lansing, was ordained and settled in 1806; Rev. Jabez Chadwick, in 1811; since succeeded by Rev. Messrs. Burback, Prentiss, Bacon and Machin. Their church edifice was erected in 1819. A Post Office was established about the year 1800, Nehemiah Earll, Post Master. Daniel Mosely established himself here as a lawyer in 1809. Medad Curtis, B. D. Noxon, and several other members of the Bar of Onondaga, resided here previous to the removal of the Court House to Syracuse. With the completion of the Erie Canal, and the removal of the public buildings, its prospects were abridged, and it has since rapidly declined.

Rattlesnakes were every where numerous at the time of the first settlement of the country, and were subjects of continual dread. It was no uncommon occurrence for these poisonous animals to insinuate themselves into the houses of the early settlers, and coil themselves snugly in the corners of the fire places, and beneath the beds, for the purpose of gathering warmth. They seldom did harm unless irritated and provoked.

Among the antiquities of this town may be noted, that on the farm of Mr. Hessy was the remains of an old fort. When the first settlers came, there were some of the pickets still standing, and the places visible where others had stood. At the corners were evident marks of a chimney and fire places, and also the ruins of a blacksmith's shop. Cinders and a variety of tools belonging to the trade have at times been plowed up. A portion seemed to have served for a burying ground, as human bones were frequently disinterred by the plow. A large and excellent anvil was also plowed up.

Major Danforth once received a letter from an old Frenchman, stating, that not far from his (Danforth's) house, in the bank of the creek, he would find a complete set of blacksmiths' tools as ever were used. Search was made for them but they have never come to light.

In the year 1798, on the west part of the farm, afterwards occupied by Gilbert Pinckney, could be seen a trench, about ten rods long, three feet deep, and about four feet wide at top, on the border of a steep gulf and parallel with it, apparently a place of defense. Arrow-heads, spear-points and knives of flint, also stone axes, and other Indian implements, have been found, and several burial places were known to the early settlers. In the spring of 1815, on the farm of Deacon Joseph Forman, at Onondaga Hollow, an oaken pail was plowed up containing about four quarts of leaden bullets, supposed to have been buried during the Revolutionary war. There is every appearance of an extensive burying ground on Judge Strong's premises, indicated by the following circumstances: In excavating a cellar to his house in 1816, a full grown skeleton of a man was thrown out. Another was disinterred by a Mr. Carpenter, while digging post holes back of Judge S's house. Six other graves were opened, having in them the skeletons of full grown persons. The bones were in an advanced stage of decay. They were found about a foot and a half below the surface, and those thrown out were gathered together and buried. From appearances this spot must have contained several hundred graves. Webster informed Judge Strong, that the Indians had a tradition, that in one of their battles with the French in the Hollow, which had been protracted and severe, the French removed their wounded to this spot, and here buried such as did not survive. On west hill, a mile south of the village, was a clearing called the Webster orchard. Another called the Lewis orchard. The Youngs farm had a clearing of one hundred and fifty acres. There were several other smaller clearings at the Hollow, some of them covered with grass and clumps of wild plumb and cherry trees. At the Hollow, south of the village, was an Indian burying ground.

In earlier times, when the great annual councils of the Five Nations, were held at Onondaga, and the affairs of this distinguished confederacy were of consequence, after continuing for several days, they were usually closed with great rejoicing

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and a war dance. After the breaking up of these councils, the Senecas and Cayugas would set out for their homes early in the morning. As early as nine o'clock, the open ground from the turnpike to the Court-House, would become literally crowded with Indians. To this place, a large party of the Onondagas invariably accompanied their friends, for the purpose of taking leave. It is said that on these occasions the adieus were extremely affecting. An aged chief would grasp the hand of a friend, hold it in his own, for the space of several minutes, without uttering a single syllable, with eyes cast upon the ground, with the most unaffected gravity, and solemnity of countenance, and after a long time, retire silently, as if the bitterest grief pervaded his heart in consequence of the separation. What was practiced by one was practiced by all. The whole scene is represented as being truly solemn and affecting.

Large quantities of horn stone are found imbedded in the slate rock of the Hamilton group, in the south part of the town of Onondaga, along the road to Otisco from South Hollow.—Along the banks of the Onondaga Creek are found a number of sulphur springs. In the town are numerous hopper-formed depressions, in shape like a potash kettle, from two to four rods across at top, and from ten to forty feet deep. These are on the south part of Mr. Thomas Dorwin's farm.

There are abundance of petrifications in this town, north towards the town of Camillus, and along the Onondaga valley, and several deposits of calcareous Tufa.

In the West Hill, is forming, at the present time quite perceptible, large bodies of conglomerate rock.

Split Rock quarry, furnishes an inexhaustable material for building purposes, commencing near Mickles' furnace, running westerly into the town of Camillus.

Onondaga South Hollow is a small village on the west branch of the Onondaga Creek, with two meeting-houses, two grist-mills, saw-mills, clothing-works, post-office, &c. Some of the first settlers in this quarter, previous to 1800, were Gideon Seely, Phineas Sparks, Ebenezer Conklin, Turner

Fenner, Gilbert Pinckney and Amasa Chapman; from 1800 to 1804, Obadiah Nichols, John Clark, Henry Frost, John Carpenter, Zebulon Rust, Joseph Warner, Oliver Cummings, Daniel Chaffe, Isaac Parmenter and others.

Near this village is a singular elevation of land, about two hundred feet above the creek. The sides are steep except on the west, and not easily accessible. On the top is a beautiful plateau, perfectly plain and level, containing about one hundred and fifty acres of excellent land, under a high state of cultivation. There are other similar elevations in this branch of the Onondaga valley, but none so deserving of notice as this.

Navarino is a small village, west of South Hollow, on very high ground. It has a church, post-office, &c.

Statistics of Onondaga, taken from the census of 1845: Number of inhabitants, 5142. 441 subject to military duty, 1050 voters, 152 aliens, 79 paupers, (poor-house and all,) 1324 children attending common schools, 30898 acres of improved land, 5 grist-mills, 8 saw-mills, 1 fulling-mill, 1 carding-machine, 1 woolen-factory, 1 iron-foundery, 2 asheries, 1 Tannery, 2 Baptist churches, 1 Episcopal do., 1 Presbyterian do., 1 Congregational do., 5 Methodist do., 34 common schools, 8 taverns, 8 stores, 2 groceries, 609 farmers, 8 merchants, 4 manufacturers, 129 mechanics, 11 clergymen, 7 physicians and 2 attorneys.

**SALINA.\***—The old town of Salina, in point of importance may be ranked as inferior to no other in the county. The name was given by the Commissioners of the Land Office. In 1797, a law was passed, authorizing the Surveyor General to lay out a portion of the Salt Springs Reservation, for the purpose of making provision for the manufacture of salt. A portion of the marsh and upland was laid out on a map, and named Salina. Afterwards, in 1798, a village was laid out and called Salina, and when the town was organized in 1809, that was also called Salina. At a very early period, the terri-

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tory embraced in the town of Salina, attracted the attention of travelers and settlers, on account of the anticipated value of the salt springs; and, as the country advanced in resources and population, the predictions of the most sanguine were more than realized. At the organization of the county in 1794, the town of Salina was comprehended in the original towns of Manlius and Marcellus; and, after Onondaga was set off in 1798, and the township of Camillus was organized as a town, that portion of the reservation not included in Onondaga, on the west side of the lake and creek was attached to Camillus. At the organization of the town in 1809, a triangular piece of ground containing nine and a half lots, were taken from the north-west corner of the township of Manlius, which, with the Salt Springs Reservation, made the town of Salina.

In August, 1790, Col. Jeremiah Gould and family, consisting of a wife and three sons, Jeremiah, James and Phares, and an only daughter, the eldest of the children, moved from Westmoreland to Salt Point, and found there, Deacon Loomis, Nathaniel Loomis, Hezekiah Olcott, John Danforth, Asa Danforth, Jr., and Thomas Gaston, with their families, who had settled there a year or two previous, and had commenced the manufacture of salt. In 1791, Mr. Samuel Jerome came to Onondaga to look land, and visited Salt Point, took a handful of the salt, went through Pompey, Fabius, Homer and Manlius; and, on his return to Saratoga, his place of residence, he reported that he had found "the land of promise," and persuaded a number of his friends to come out and settle upon it.

In 1791, two families of the name of Woodworth and Sturges, settled near the marsh. On the 2d of March, 1792, Mr. Isaac Van Vleck and family, came to Salt Point, and the following year, came Thomas Orman and Simon Phares.

Frame houses were built at Salt Point at an early day. The manner of building was peculiar, and hardly deserved the name of frame; it was like this: sills were laid, and posts set up at proper distances, and the beams and plates put in.

Grooves were cut in the posts, two inches wide, and sticks laid in horizontally, and the whole plastered up with mud, tempered with straw, which made very comfortable dwellings. Chimnies were made of sticks and clay, and the fire places had no jams, only a plain stone wall on the back. Mr. Jeremiah Gould, erected the first frame house at Salt Point, and the first in the county of Onondaga, in 1792; John Danforth erected the second, in 1793; Mr. Van Vleet and Asa Danforth, Jr., built frame houses about the same time, of superior construction. Provisions were brought from Tioga, and from Whitestown and Herkimer, and exchanged for salt. In 1792 and 1793, the settlers in this county suffered severely for want of provisions; and, on several occasions, boats were sent from Salt Point to Kingston, by way of Oswego, to procure provisions; and the old people inform us, that they at different times procured bread, biscuits, salted meat and fish, that were made and cured in England, which, though of inferior quality, were nevertheless accepted with a relish which hunger never fails to give. Captain Canute, of a trading boat from Salt Point to Albany, brought provisions, groceries, &c., and often received his pay in young bears, wolves, 'coons, foxes, fawns, &c., all of which at that time were very plenty. Deer were so plenty and tame, that they frequently herded with the cows, and would enter the yards with them at night, with as much unconcern, as if they had been completely domesticated. The young bears, &c., were furnished to the white people by the Indians, for the merest trifle; and, numbers of these animals have been known to be confined in chains, awaiting the arrival of Captain Canute, who always found a ready sale for them at a fair profit in Albany.

So common were wolves and bears at this time, that it was not unusual for these animals to be seen passing along the path leading from Cicero to Onondaga, as fearless and unconcerned as if entirely among the wild beasts of the forest, or completely domesticated. And from the frequency of these recurrences, these paths were named the bear and wolf paths, and two of the streets running north from main street, in the

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first ward of Syracuse, from this circumstance, are now called Wolf and Bear streets.

The country about Onondaga Lake, up to the year 1800, during the summer season, was extremely unhealthy. Fevers began to appear early in July, and cases followed each other in such quick succession, that oftentimes there were scarce well persons enough to minister to the necessities of the sick, and it seemed as if man and beast were alike afflicted with the same dread scourge. Numbers of the inhabitants perished during the sickly seasons, and cattle and horses were not exempt from sickness and death. It seemed to be the chosen abode of pestilence and death.

In 1793, there were but thirty persons at Salt Point all told, and nearly every one was sick at one time, except a man named Patrick Riley, a generous hearted fellow, who carried on Mr. Van Vleck's salt works. He drew all his own wood for salt-block, boiled salt every day and half the nights, and every alternate night watched with the sick, for a period of two months, without a single night of intermission. Dr. Holbrook, who had then settled near Jamesville, and the first physician in the county, came over every day to visit the sick, and was considered a successful as well as skilful physician. Dr. Burnet is said to have been the first resident physician at Salina, in 1797. During the sickly season the Indians were exceedingly kind and attentive, and furnished liberally to every family a supply of venison and fish, which added greatly to their comfort.

One of the peculiar characteristics of the Indians was often displayed at their drunken frolics. During the early settlement of Salina, whenever they had resolved upon a carousal, they almost invariably divested themselves of all deadly weapons, and deposited them in some safe place, in the keeping of a confidential person, and went to the work of excessive drunkenness with all their might and main. Not unfrequently on these occasions, one of their number would be set apart, expressly to keep sober, and to see that no one injured another in any outbreak of uncontrolled passion.

At the period of the first settlement of the county, rattlesnakes were numerous in the vicinity of Salina, and if molested, were extremely dangerous; but on the contrary, if suffered to pursue their own way, were considered harmless and inoffensive. On a time, a little son of Mr. Isaac Van Vleck, named Abraham, was out at play. His mother became much alarmed by the violent cackling of the fowls, which were in the highest state of excitement. Mrs. Van Vleck, being in earnest to learn the cause, passed round the house, and there found her little son fondling in his hands and arms an enormous rattlesnake, which twined and writhed around the tender limbs of the child, in the fondest manner, looking defiance at the fowls that had gathered around in a circle, and by their noise and bustle, expressed the utmost fear and agitation. The frightened mother ran to her nearest neighbors, who soon gathered at the scene. The snake seemed to increase his fondness for the child, and no one seemed disposed to meddle with his snakeship for fear of increasing its danger or their own. At length the mother seized a favorable opportunity, snatched the child, and ran away with it. The snake seemed angry with the removal of his little friend, coiled himself in a hostile attitude, and was instantly dispatched by those present. On another occasion an Indian was accidentally bitten severely by one of these poisonous reptiles. Knowing that he must die, he instantly killed the snake, and bit the reptile's head, that he might die the sooner. Within twenty-four hours he was a corpse, having swelled to an enormous size and burst.

The first licensed tavern keeper we find in the town of Salina was Mr. Gilchrist, whose house stood near where the inspector's office is now; others of the same business soon followed, and Salina became noted for the excellency of its taverns. A Mr. Carpenter was the first merchant of any considerable note, and was connected with the Federal Company.

Mr. Ryal Bingham was the first Justice of the Peace at Salt Point, '96 or '97; he moved there from Three-River Point. It is related of this Justice, that a man was brought

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before him on a charge of stealing. Upon being satisfied of his guilt, he ordered him to be whipped a certain number of lashes on the bare back. There being no one willing to execute the sentence, the Justice undertook it himself, and to the great discomfiture of the thief, succeeded too well.

Abraham Van Vleck is supposed to be the first male child born in the county of Onondaga—born in the year 1792. About the time of his birth, an Indian had been drowned at the Oswego Falls, by the upsetting of his canoe, and the event bore so heavy upon the friends of the deceased, that the son of Mr. Van Vleck was named by the Indians Ne-un-hoo-tah, which being interpreted, means sorrow for one departed, and by this name he was known among the Indians, who always entertained for him a remarkable friendship, and gave to his father in trust for him a mile square of land, at the outlet of the lake. The title was not recognized by the State. It was customary in those days for the Indians to call all the principal families by their own names. Mr. Van Vleck was called Ka-hunk-a-ta-wah, meaning, one spry enough to skip over water. Mrs. Van Vleck was called Con-o-roo-quah, one of pleasant disposition, and the present Mrs. O'Blennis, a daughter of Mr. Van Vleck, was named Jo-an-te-no; and other members of the family had also Indian names, as well as others of the settlers.

The town of Salina was incorporated in 1809, and the first town meeting held at the house of Cornelius Schoutens, 11th of March, the same year. At this time Elisha Alvord was elected Supervisor, and Fisher Curtis, Town Clerk; Rufus Danforth, Martin Wandle, Richard C. Johnson, Henry Bogardus, Assessors; Michael Mead, Wm. Buckley, Jr., and Jonathan Fay, Commissioners of Highways, &c. 1810, Cyrel Hunt was elected Supervisor, and Fisher Curtis, Town Clerk; Rufus Danforth, Daniel Wheadon, Nathan D'Lamatter, Assessors.

In 1798, the Surveyor General was directed by law to lay out the village of Salina. The act is in the following words, viz.: "Be it enacted, that the Superintendent shall, on the

ground adjoining to the south-east side of Free street, so named on the map of the Salt Springs, made by the Surveyor General, lay out a square for a village, consisting of sixteen blocks, each six chains square, with intermediate streets, conforming to the streets laid down on the said map, made by the Surveyor General, and divide each lot into four house lots, and deliver a map and description thereof to the Surveyor General, who having approved thereof, shall thereupon proceed to advertize and sell, not exceeding thirty of the said lots in the manner prescribed by law for the sale of the lots laid out at Oswego. *Provided*, that none of the said lots shall be sold for a less sum than forty dollars, and provided also, that no lot on which there is a building of the value of fifty dollars, shall be liable to be sold, if the owner or occupant thereof shall agree to secure a deed therefor, and pay for the same, at the average price of other lots sold as aforesaid."

The village was laid out, and lots sold on credit, in 1799, and those who had not paid up in 1801, had the time of their payments extended by law.

The village of Salina was incorporated March 12th, 1824. At the election under the village charter, Fisher Curtis, Henry C. Rossiter, James Shankland, Jonathan R. Beach, were elected Trustees; Fisher Curtis was appointed President; Ashbel Kellogg, Clerk; S. R. Mathews, Collector; Horace Brace, Treasurer; and J. G. Forbes, Attorney. Among the first acts of the Trustees was to procure a fire engine, and ladders, hooks, and other apparatus for the extinguishment of fires, laying out and improving streets and other things for the prosperity of the village. By the Book of Records it appears that the first Board of Trustees were not unmindful of their duty, but went zealously into the work assigned them, and made many improvements which have had a lasting tendency to perpetuate the prosperity of the village. In 1825, Thomas McCarthy, Wm. Beach, B. F. Williams, Sylvester F. Peck, and E. M. Knapp, were elected Trustees. 1826, Thomas McCarthy, E. M. Knapp, B. F. Williams, S. F. Peck, Wm. H. Beach, were elected Trustees; Thomas McCarthy, Presi-

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dent. The village of Salina is now the first ward of the city of Syracuse.

The Presbyterian Society at Salina, was organized on the 20th day of March, 1810, as the "United Church of Onondaga Hollow and Salina," by the Presbytery of Geneva, and Rev. Dirk C. Lansing minister of the Church. There were but nine members at this time. Previous to this the Presbyterians attended divine worship with the Methodists, and had occasional services of their own, by the Rev. Caleb Alexander and Samuel T. Mills. On the 23d of January, 1822, the United Church was divided, and a separate church organized, called the First Presbyterian Church at Salina. The Rev. Hutchins Taylor was installed in March, 1822. A new house of worship was erected in 1823, and Mr. Taylor continued as pastor to September, 1826. Then succeeded the Rev. Mr. Hotchkiss, one year and a half; Rev. Hiram H. Kellogg, two years; James J. Ostrum, three years; Joseph J. Foot, two years. In July, 1836, Rev. Hutchins Taylor was re-called, and remained till some time in 1839. Rev. Joseph Myers preached from December 1st, 1839, to May, 1844. The Rev. Elias Clark during the winter of 1844, and the Rev. Thomas Castleton from 20th of August, 1845, to the present time.

The next religious society were the Methodists, who were organized at an early day, and who erected their house of worship, 1829.

St. John's Roman Catholic Church, in the village of Salina, now Syracuse, was commenced and enclosed in 1829, by the exertions of Thomas McCarthy and James Lynch, and a few Roman Catholics, and the liberal donations of their Protestant fellow-citizens in the villages of Salina and Syracuse, and by collections made by said McCarthy and Lynch, from their friends in Utica, Albany and New-York. Rt. Rev. John Dubois was then Bishop of the Diocese of New-York, and for the two succeeding years, the congregation being small, was visited by clergymen only once a month. The first resident clergyman that attended the church, was the Rev. Francis O'Donoghue, who was the pastor for about six years, and was

succeeded by Rev. James O'Donnell, who remained in charge of the church and mission some four or five years. After him the Rev. Mr. Haes, now of the Syracuse Church, had charge for several years, and the present pastor, Rev. Mr. Geauredt, for about three years. Others who have officiated are Rev. Messrs. Drummond, Chartier, Rolf and Cummings.

St Mary's German Catholic Church was erected during the winter of 1844-5. Clergymen, Rev. Messrs. Adelbert, Inama, Xavier, Roth and Theodore Noethen.

About a mile north of Green Point, were formerly the remains of a fortification, probably erected by the French, in some of their visits to the Onondaga valley. This may be the ruins of the fort erected by Mons. Dablon, in 1665, (see page 174, Vol. I.)

In the account given by the Jesuit Fathers, of the location of the French fortification, and the colony and mission established at the same time, there are many striking coincidences with this ground, and the locality described by them. "The spring of fresh water, and a salt fountain, eighty or an hundred paces distant," &c. (see p.250, Vol.I.) Although there is now no salt spring "issuing from the same hill," yet, fifty years ago there was one, which circumstance, with the old fortification, goes far to identify them as one and the same place, and as no other ruins were noticeable by the first settlers, we set it down as the ground upon which Mons. Dablon established his fort. The prospect described by the several missionaries, as being surpassingly beautiful, is still entitled to the same praise, and "the spring of pure, fresh water" bubbles up with the same freshness now that it did two hundred years ago, and is as useful at this day to slake the thirst of the weary ploughman, as it was then to cool the lips of the tented soldier, the pilgrim priest, or the wandering savage.

At even a much earlier date, it may have been the strong hold of the Iroquois in the Onondaga country, and may be the same attacked with so much vigor by Mons. Champlain in 1615, (see page 252, Vol. I.)

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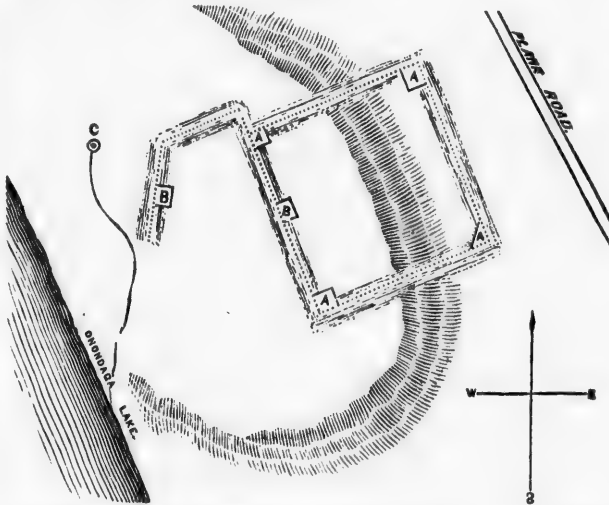
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of Salina, this ground was covered with small trees of a uniform size, indicating that at a very distant period, it had been destitute of timber.

Judge Geddes in a manuscript now in hand, says: "In the summer of 1797, when the Surveyor General laid out the salt lots, I officiated as a deputy surveyor, and when traversing the shores of Onondaga Lake, I found between Brown's pumpworks and Liverpool, the traces of an old stockade, which I surveyed and made a map of. Our opinion was, from the truth of the right angles, and other apparent circumstances, that it was a French work. A fine spring of water, rises near by."

The accompanying cut, is a copy of the survey, made by Judge Geddes at this time. The original is now in the Surveyor General's office, at Albany.



A A A A-Parapets. B B-Gateways. C-Spring and Well. ....-Palisades.

On this ground have been plowed up, brass kettles, gun barrels, musket balls, axes, grape shot, &c. Burnt earth and calcined stones, and broken bricks, where their fires had been kept, are to be seen even to this day. In 1794, the ditch,

was easily to be traced, and some of the pickets were standing. The work embraced about half an acre of land, and from its location, was a place of beauty, convenience and strength.

This work is situated on the farm of Mr. Myrick Bradley, on the bank of the lake. An old deserted house now stands on the site. Cultivation and time have removed all traces of its being.

There was an ancient burying ground at Green Point.

LIVERPOOL was laid out as a village by the Surveyor General, and named Liverpool by the Commissioners of the Land Office.

Previous to this, it was called Little Ireland, and was early a place of considerable notoriety as a salt manufacturing locality.

Jonathan Danforth was the first settler at Liverpool, in 1794, and commenced the manufacture of salt. He was soon followed by Patrick Riley, Joseph Gordon, James Armstrong and Charles Morgan.

John O'Blennis made salt at Green Point in 1794. There were many salt springs which issued all along the high bank of the lake, north of the point, at which, works have at different times been erected. The first school kept at Liverpool, was by a man named Conner, in his salt works, and the scholars were taught, while he carried on the business of making salt. His school was then considered the best in the county, and was denominated "*the high school*," and was patronized by the inhabitants of Salina and Onondaga Hollow.

"*Ascension Church*," Liverpool, was organized in 1840, and their church edifice erected in 1841. Rev. Messrs. George D. Gillespie, S. G. Appleton and Samuel Goodale, Clergymen.

Statistics of the town of Salina, from the State census of 1845:—

Number of inhabitants, 15,804; subject to military duty, 1,864; voters, 3,533; aliens, 1,101; children attending Common Schools, 2,353; acres improved land, 14,012; grist mills,

4; saw mills, 4; iron works, 4; trip hammer, 1; asheries, 2; Tanneries, 2; Churches, Baptist, 1; Episcopalian, 3; Presbyterian, 3; Congregational, 1; Methodist, 6; Roman Catholic, 3; Universalist, 1; Unitarian, 1; Jews, 1; Common Schools, 26; wholesale stores, 4; retail stores, 103; Groceries, 78; Farmers, 297; Merchants, 130; Manufacturers, 147; Mechanics, 1003; Clergymen, 21; Physicians, 33; Lawyers, 41.

GEDDES.—In 1793, Mr. James Geddes visited Onondaga, with a view of selecting a location for his future residence, and the next year he came on, and arrived on the bank of the lake, in April, 1794. He had previous to this, formed a company in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of manufacturing salt. The other members of the company came on the following month of June. The members of this company composed the village, which received its name from the president of the company, and entered at once into the manufacture of salt. The Indians took offense at this, contending, that inasmuch as they had sold to the state of New-York an undivided half of the salt water; and, as the white people had already taken possession of the salt springs at Salina, that therefore, the springs on the west side of the lake must belong to the Indians. They did not at all understand the white man's phrase, "tenants in common." Mr. Webster, who lived among the Indians and knew their feelings, and who had considerable influence over them, came to the new works, and advised Mr. Geddes to meet the Indians in council, and have the matter satisfactorily adjusted. This advice was followed; but, the Indians at first refused to treat, rejected all advances, and refused to accept his presents. The council was dissolved for the time being without any satisfactory result. But he took the precaution to leave with Mr. Webster the presents to be given, whenever they would be received. The Indians smoked and deliberated upon the matter a long time. The presents were enticing, and the salt springs they did not like to yield. Finally this Gordian Knot was severed, by adopting him into the nation, thus making



him one of them; and then, as an Indian, he could lawfully use the water. This was rather nice maneuvering, and shows the regard these red men had for their laws, and that there were men of sagacity in those days as well as now. The name given to the newly adopted member of the nation was, *Don-da-dah-gwah*, which signified, the place where canoes discharged their freight, by which name he was always addressed by the older Onondagas, while he lived.

This is the foundation of the village of Geddes. At this time, the salt works were accessible only by a road from Onondaga Hollow, passing through a swamp, which is now Syracuse. It became necessary for the company at Geddes to connect with this road, and by the aid of monies, from a road fund in the hands and under the control of three county commissioners, and by large contributions, Mr. Geddes made the road from his village, to the road from Onondaga Hollow to Salt Point, cutting a part of the timber with his own hands. The owners of the salt works at Salt Point, were not at all friendly to their neighbors, whom they considered in the light of rivals, and carried their resentment so far, as to withhold assistance in raising a bridge over Onondaga Creek, and to throw out hints, that it could not be raised without them. But necessity became the mother of invention, and made the resources of the directors more fruitful than their most sanguine friends anticipated. The first bent was put together, and shoved off the bank of the creek, the mud sill placed at the foot of the bank; and by levers, was so managed, that one man could exercise the power of many, applied in the ordinary manner. The bent was set upright, the stringers from the top of the bank to the bent being placed, so much was planked, and thus a foundation was made from which the next bent was raised, and so on, until the bridge was finished, and the road completed.

Mr. Geddes continued at his first landing place but a short time, (about four years,) when he located on the farm now occupied by his son, Hon. George Geddes, Fairmount. The next person who tried his fortune at this place, was Mr. Free-



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man Hughs, from Westfield, Massachusetts, who located there in March, 1799, at 18 years of age. At that time, there was not a single house in what is now the town of Geddes, except Geddes' Salt Works, which had been abandoned. Here he took up his abode three days and three nights, all alone, and not an individual nearer than Salt Point—a lonely time indeed, considering the state of the country, the dark and dreary swamps, the wolves, bears and wild cats, by which he was surrounded.

Mr. Hughs has occupied during his residence at Geddes, almost every station connected with the salt business. He has bored for salt, pumped the brine, built pumps, made and laid aqueducts, tubed wells, boiled salt, made barrels, packed salt, inspected it for six years, was a receiver of duties for two years, boated salt, and as a Justice of the Peace, tried those who had evaded the payment of duties.

At one time, while boring for salt, about half way from Geddes to Harbor Brook, the workmen struck a pine log, 86 feet below the surface, and cut through it with their drills. Several borings have been made along the western shore of Onondaga Lake, but owing to the rock, none has been found as highly impregnated with salt as the wells at Salina and Syracuse. The strongest water is invariably found where the ancient valley is deepest, and in the lowest deposits of gravel. One of the earliest and greatest improvements about the village of Geddes, was the making a road from that place to Salina. The ground over which the road was to pass, was a perfect quagmire, filled with thick cedar timber and low brush wood. It was so miry, so thick with underbrush, and so much covered with water, that it was completely impassable, and could not be surveyed by the ordinary methods. In this case, the Surveyor set his compass at the house of Sam'l R. Mathews, at Salina, and took the bearing of Mr. Hughs' Chimney, above the trees, and from this observation the route of the road was commenced, by cutting brush and laying them crosswise on the line of the road, and covering them with earth. The process was slow, but time and perseverance has

accomplished the work, and an excellent road, perfectly straight between the two villages, is the result. Clearing of the swamp lands has cost, ordinarily about one hundred dollars per acre. Logs cover the ground, mixed with peat to the depth of six feet, and in some instances stumps are found far below the surface.

James Lamb, built the first frame house at Geddes, about 1803, and kept a tavern.

The first school house was built of logs, near where the church now stands, in 1804, and afterwards the present brick school house.

The first physician was Dr. Thayer, and lawyers, E. W. Curtis and R. S. Orvis, Esqrs.

"*Apostolic Church*," Geddes, was organized January, 1832, and the church edifice erected the same year. Rev. Richard Salmon and Rev. M. Whiting, clergymen. Religion has made but slow advances at this place, and most of the church-going people attend worship at the city of Syracuse.

In 1848, Geddes was erected a town by itself, including all that part of Salina west of the lake, not embraced in the city of Syracuse.

Although the author is in possession of no recorded historical or documentary proof of a party of about two hundred men proceeding from Fort Schuyler through this country, to aid General Sullivan in his Indian expedition of 1779, yet from several revolutionary soldiers, and particularly a Mr. Hobart, late of Salina, who was one of the expedition, there is no doubt but such was the fact. They were burdened with supplies and baggage. The road which was cut through by them, was easily traced at the time the first settlements were made in the county. They crossed the Onondaga valley at Geddes, and from there to the Seneca River, below Montezuma, traces of their march were plain to be seen, trees had been cut close to the ground, and young bushes had filled the path.

The name Harbor Brook, in this town, was obtained under the following circumstances. At the time Sir John Johnson,

with his Indian and Tory allies, made an incursion into the Mohawk valley, in 1779, the party forming the expedition, had proceeded from Niagara along the Ontario Lake shore to Oswego, and up the river to Onondaga Lake. For fear of discovery, if their boats were left on the lake shore, they run them up this small stream, among the thick bushes and brakes. A party was sent from Fort Schuyler to destroy them, but did not succeed in ascertaining where they were concealed; but were surprised during the search, taken prisoners, and carried captive to Canada. On the first night of their departure, they encamped for the night at Three-River-Point, where the prisoners were bound and tied to trees until morning. Capt. Patrick McGee, was one of the prisoners, and was so much pleased with the beauty of the place at this time, at the junction of the rivers, that at the close of the war, he selected it for his residence, spent the residue of his life there, and was buried on the spot he had previously selected for that purpose. These facts were related by him, during his life.

**GREAT ALARM IN 1794.**—In the early part of the spring and summer of 1794, there was a wonderful alarm and panic among the settlers of Onondaga County. It was occasioned mainly by the belligerent spirit of the Indians, manifesting itself in the northern and western parts of the State of New-York, and in the State of Ohio. The alarm was so great, and immediate danger so apparent, that many prudent persons buried their most valuable effects, and not a few were on the point of hastily leaving the country. To such a height were their fears excited, that it was thought the settlements in the vicinity of Onondaga, would be broken up. A meeting of the inhabitants of this part of the county was called at Morehouse's tavern, to consult and devise means for the public safety. Mr. Jonathan Russell was dispatched to Albany, with instructions to lay the situation of the settlement before the Governor of the State. After the return of Mr. Russell, a subsequent meeting was called of the inhabitants, and Governor Clinton about the middle of May, dispatched General

William North, General Stephen Van Rensselaer, and Adjutant General David Van Horne, who were to call on the Baron Steuben, then at his residence in Oneida County. They four were to attend this meeting. These gentlemen, with others, had been recently appointed commissioners by the Legislature of the State of New-York, for the purpose of erecting such fortifications, as in their judgment should be deemed necessary for the security of the western and northern frontier of the State. Twelve thousand pounds had been appropriated by the Legislature to defray any expenses thus made. The military force of the county were assembled at Morehouse's, and reviewed by the Baron and his associates, who proceeded to Salt Point, examined the position, advised the erection of a *block house*, and in company of a committee of public safety, consisting of Moses De Witt, Isaac Van Vleck, Thomas Orman, Simon Phares, and John Danforth, proceeded to stake out the ground near the principal Salt Spring. They made sundry special military appointments, and gave directions for its speedy erection. Major Danforth and Major Moses De Witt, were commissioned to superintend the building of the block house, which was soon completed, under the immediate inspection of Mr. Cornelius Higgins, as master builder. It was built of substantial squared oak logs, with a high picket work around it of large cedar posts. The commissioners represented to the people that there was great reason to apprehend an Indian war; and at one time the people became so much alarmed that they took refuge in what was then called Thompson's sugar bush, near where Dioclesian Alvord now resides, and there remained for three days and nights. Judge James Geddes thus speaks of this affair, in a MS. before us:

"The commissioners informed us that they had come to fortify Three-River-Point and Salt Point. Myself and all my hands were summoned across the lake to be reviewed by Baron Steuben. Having shook hands with all of us, and enquired the place of our nativity, the Baron informed us of our danger, and admonished us to be on the look-out for Indians. How it happened, I cannot now well account for it, but I par-

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took of none of his fears, and all my hands remained perfectly tranquil. Not so with the people of Salt Point; for while the block house and stockade was building before their eyes, at the expense and by authority of the State, it seemed that as loyal people they could be no less than afraid. And one afternoon terror took such hold of them that all the houses were emptied, and men, women and children all took to the woods, and spent that night and the following there for safety. As none of my folks happened to go over to the Point for two days, the conclusion there, was that the Indians having found us, had proceeded no further, and that they owed their safety to our being between them and the point of danger, for from the west they knew the Indians would come, and the attack would certainly be upon us first."

On this occasion, Mr. Jonathan Russell, of Pompey, enlisted an independent volunteer company, called the "*Grenadiers*." Anson Jackson was his Lieutenant, and Jonathan Bond, Ensign. This company manned the block house, and were furnished with a field piece, (a six pounder,) with small arms, ammunition, rations, &c., from the Commissary's department of the State of New-York, by order of Governor Clinton. A depot was established at Jeremiah Jackson's Mills, near Jamesville, and warlike implements and stores deposited there, and all male persons over fourteen years of age, were required to hold themselves in readiness for any emergency.\* In addition to the permanent force of Capt. Russell's company, which was to keep garrison, three men were drafted from each militia company then organized on the Military Tract, who were to arm themselves completely, from the de-

\* Col. Jeremiah Jackson was at the taking of Quebec, under General Wolfe, in 1759. He afterwards married and settled in Massachusetts, and in the struggle for independence, entered the American army, with a Captain's commission, and served with credit to himself and country through a great part of the war. He had three sons with him. While in the army he made the acquaintance of Major Danforth, through whose instrumentality he was induced to move to this county in 1791, and become the purchaser of Danforth's mills. He subsequently moved to the town of Pompey, and died on his farm in what is since La Fayette, in 1802, and was buried with military honors.

pot at Jackson's Mills, and in case of any sudden assault or attack, to proceed, without a moment's delay to the place to be defended.\* They were styled "*minute men*," and kept up a show of force, long after affairs had assumed a peaceful aspect. On one occasion this alarm was greatly increased by the rejoicing at Fort Ontario, (then in possession of the British,) on the 4th of June in that year, celebrating the birthday of King George III. The roar of cannon fired at Oswego, was distinctly heard throughout the eastern part of the county; many were almost distracted with fear, and went running to and fro inquiring of every person they met whether the enemy were in sight. Some were so much alarmed as to bid their friends farewell, as if never to see them more. News soon arrived of the true cause of the firing at Oswego, upon which the agonies of terror and despair were succeeded by the most frantic demonstrations of joy.

The immediate cause of the alarm which came so near annihilating the Onondaga settlement, was this: It seems that as soon as navigation had opened in the spring of 1794, Sir John Johnson, agent of Indian Affairs in Canada, had ordered a boat-load of stores from Albany, consisting chiefly of groceries, apple-trees, shrubs, &c., with a variety of articles suitable for the comfort and advancement of the Mohawk settlement, then recently made upon Grand River. On the return of this boat, a party of some thirty or forty men, waylaid it near Three-River-Point, and plundered it of its entire cargo, afterwards distributing it among themselves. Johnson was highly incensed at this premeditated insult and robbery. He hastened to Oswego, where the British garrison was still kept, and there related the story of his wrongs. This at once aroused the ire of the British officers, and it was forthwith determined that Johnson and Brant should at once raise a body

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\* April 9th, 1795, an act was passed granting to Jonathan Russell thirty pounds fifteen shillings, and to Comfort Tyler, three pounds four shillings, for services and expenses in transporting arms, ammunition, and one piece of ordnance from Fort Stanwix, to the Salt Springs, for the defense of the eastern part of the county of Onondaga.

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of soldiers and Indians in Canada, and in revenge, make a sudden descent upon the Onondaga settlement, where it was presumed most of the aggressors resided. Indians soon gathered in considerable numbers, in the vicinity of Niagara and Oswego, burning to revenge the wrongs of their favorite leaders. It was reported that five hundred Messasagues were already on their way. At this time too, a number of disaffected Onondagas had joined the western Indians against General Wayne. They had engaged some of these to co-operate with themselves, and had calculated, as a matter of course, that Wayne would be defeated as had been his predecessors, Generals Harnmar and St. Clair. In case of that event, so confidently expected, they were all to return, and with the remaining Onondagas, assist the common enemy in the destruction of the Onondaga settlement. One thing more perhaps excited these persons to commit the aggressive act complained of upon the boat. The British garrison at Oswego had assumed the right to levy and collect duties on all American boats passing that fortress, and had employed persons as spies to give notice of any boats which designed to "run" the fort. Several boats had been seized and confiscated. Two of these renegades had previously been publicly whipped at Salt Point. This state of things, as a matter of course, produced much angry excitement throughout the county. However, after some considerable tumultuous contention, satisfaction was rendered, and as far as possible, restitution made to the injured parties in the case, which had the effect, in some degree, to restore a better state of feeling.

The participators in this affair kept concealed for a long time, fearing the vengeance of the laws; for the aggression was severely reprehended by a large majority of the inhabitants.

The excuse offered for so flagrant an act, was this: the British cruisers had continued the search and seizure of American vessels and the impressment of American seamen, after the preliminary articles of peace were agreed upon between the United States and Great Britain, in 1782. The subject



of granting letters of marque and reprisal, was a measure strongly advocated by many well disposed persons of that day; and a report had spread through this country, that the Congress of the United States had already granted these privileges to certain individuals, and that several were already commissioned in the privateering service. Under this belief, and properly to resent the seizures made at Oswego, this party commissioned themselves, and presumed the seizure of British goods, would be sanctioned by the people and authorities of the United States; but in this they were sadly mistaken. However, the fears of the inhabitants were quieted by the successful and energetic campaign of General Wayne in Ohio, and the destruction of the Indian settlements in that quarter, the same year; and confidence was fully restored throughout the country, by the timely settlement of differences between the United States and Great Britain, by Mr. Jay's treaty the following year, and the final removal of the British garrison from Oswego; since which, the alarm of war has not interrupted the prosperity of Onondaga.

There is oftentimes a singularity in the closing scenes of the lives of distinguished men; and it may not be unworthy of remark, that Frederick William Augustus, Baron de Steuben, once an Aid-de-Camp to Frederick the Great, King of Prussia; and Quartermaster General, Chevalier of the Order of Merit, Grand Marshal of the Court of Hohenzollen, Colonel in the Circle of Suabia, Knight of the Order of Fidelity, Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the Prince of Baden, Major General in the armies of the United States, and Inspector General of the same—the fortunate soldier of fifty battles, an admirer of freedom, the friend of Washington, the man of virtue, fidelity and honor, performed his last military service in reviewing a few score of unarmed, half clad militia, and in selecting a site for a block house, for the defense of the frontier of New-York, in the county of Onondaga, at Salt Point, in 1794. The Baron died at his residence in Steuben, Oneida County, November, 1795.



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DR. JONAS C. BALDWIN, was the second son of Captain Samuel Baldwin, of Windsor, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, and was born in that town, on the 3d of June, 1768.

The name and family are among the most ancient in this country. The name is of Saxon origin, and the family records trace their genealogy as far back as the fourteenth century; at which time, some of their remote ancestors were settled at a place known as Baldwinstine, on the River Rhine, in Germany. Sometime during that century, they removed to Kent, in England; and from there emigrated with Davenport, Whitefield and others, in 1639, to Milford, Connecticut, thence to Hadley, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, thence to Windsor, Berkshire County.

The immediate ancestor of Dr. Baldwin, was a Captain in the Revolutionary army, and was distinguished for his gallantry and soldierlike bearing. He was a man of eminent piety and benevolence, and died at Windsor, at an advanced age.

The grandfather of Dr. Baldwin, was a clergyman in Boston, with whom Dr. B. lived for several years, in the early part of his life. He afterwards returned to Windsor, was educated at William's College, Berkshire County, at which place he commenced the study of medicine, and finished his professional studies with the late Dr. Willard, of Albany, and with whom for a time he practiced in his profession. While in Albany, he received the appointment of Physician and Surgeon to the "Inland Lock Navigation Company," who were at the time engaged, with several hundred laborers, in constructing the canal and locks at Little Falls. At this place he remained, until the completion of that work.

From Little Falls, Dr. Baldwin with his family, in 1797, removed to the town of Ovid, Seneca County, where he owned a Military Lot, on which he settled, and where he continued until the year 1801 or 1802, when he removed to Onondaga East Hill, at which place he resided, on a large tract of land, most of which he had purchased of the State. Here he remained until the spring of 1807, when he removed to Lysan-

der, and founded the village of Baldwinsville, where he continued to reside the remainder of his life.

During his residence at Little Falls, Dr. Baldwin purchased a farm, brought it under a fine state of cultivation, and erected upon it a good house and other buildings.

While at Ovid, he cleared up most of his lot, erected a mill, established a store, and put up several buildings. At Onondaga, he cleared up and improved several farms on his tract of land, brought into the country from Connecticut, large flocks of sheep, which, at that early period, were greatly needed; many of which, were put out among the less wealthy class of farmers, who at that time, were unable to purchase for themselves; and, in various other ways employed his means (which at that period were more ample than those of any other man in the county,) in promoting his own and the public interests.

His efforts at Baldwinsville, are detailed in the history of that place, and to which the reader is referred.

There was a service which he rendered during the war of 1812, which ought not to be overlooked. Baldwinsville being on the direct route to the frontier, and only twenty-four miles distant; he, perceiving the great want of effective firearms, procured a loan from Governor Tompkins, of several hundred stand, which he issued to such as were not provided, and who were on their way to meet the enemy, who were daily expected at Oswego, taking for each stand so delivered a receipt. This duty he continued to discharge without pay; and, at the close of the war, returned the arms to the Government. He also built a large flotilla of boats, which were in the service of the United States, during most of the war. He was in the battle at Oswego, and commanded a body of men at the attack upon that place, at which time he received a slight wound in the head.

In stature, Dr. Baldwin was considerably above the ordinary size, well built, compact, strong, muscular and active. His complexion florid, his hair of a sandy tinge, his countenance frank, open and benevolent, and his manners easy.

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Those who remember him, before age and disease had commenced their ravages, speak of him as an uncommonly good looking man. When occasion required, he was resolute, firm and brave; and, in his ordinary intercourse, was mild, bland, sometimes playful, and always obliging. He was among the early, most prominent, active and enterprising settlers of this county.

He died at Onondaga East Hill, (whither he had gone from Baldwinsville on a visit,) on the 3d day of March, 1827, in the fifty-ninth year of his age.

There are many of the friends of Dr. Baldwin, who knew him well and intimately, who still survive him. The testimony which they bear respecting him, is concurrent and uniform. All agree, that he was a man of indomitable energy, great enterprise, and unbounded benevolence, ardent in temperament, and strong in his attachments; and that both he and Mrs. Baldwin, who was a lady of uncommon endowments and eminent piety, were admirably calculated for the severe and arduous duties which devolved upon them in the settlement of a wilderness country. Both were members of the Baptist Church; and dying within fourteen days of each other, were buried in one grave, in the cemetery at Baldwinsville, on the north side of the river.

Few persons leave the stage and scenes of their usefulness, so universally beloved in life, and fewer are as much lamented in their death.

LYSANDER.—This was one of the original eleven towns of the county of Onondaga, at the time of its organization in 1794, and was number one of the Military Townships. It then embraced the townships of Lysander, Hannibal and Cicero, and the first town meeting was by law directed to be held at the house of Ryal Bingham, then residing at Three-River-Point. Hannibal, now in Oswego County, was taken from it in 1806, and Cicero in 1807. In 1816, when the county of Oswego was organized, thirty-three lots of the township of Lysander were included in the county of Oswego, and town

of Granby, which leaves but sixty-seven lots in the present town of Lysander. It is situated in the north-west corner of the county. The earliest settlers in this town are nearly as follows: Ryal Bingham, near Three-River-Point, in 1793; Jonathan Palmer, near the centre of the town, same year; Reuben Smith, Adam Emerick, Elijah and Solomon Toll, Col. Thomas Farrington, Elijah Mann, John McHarrie, William Lindsey, Ebenezer Wells, James Cowan, Abner and Manly Vickery, Job Loomis, John P. Schuyler, all came in about the year 1800, some of them a year or two previous. Jacobus De Puy cleared off about fifty acres in 1805 and '6, on the north side of the river at Baldwinsville, and put it into wheat.

This town at first, owing in a measure to the unhealthiness of the location, was not very rapidly settled, but as clearings were made, and improvements extended, its settlement increased with greater celerity.

As the flourishing village of Baldwinsville, and its rise and progress constitute what have been the principal business events connected with the early history of this town, we shall in a measure confine our remarks to the village and vicinity.

This important village is situated in the towns of Lysander and Van Buren, on both sides of the Seneca River, five miles west of the outlet of Onondaga Lake, about twelve miles north-west from Syracuse, and in point of business, wealth and population, ranks next to it. Its name is derived from its founder, Dr. Jonas C. Baldwin, who commenced operations here in the spring of 1807; at which time it was named "*Columbia*," which name it bore until the establishment of a Post Office in 1815, when the name was changed by the Post Master General (in consequence of there being another Post Town of the same name in the State) to "*Baldwin's Bridge*." But the name Baldwinsville, being preferred by the inhabitants, it was substituted by the Post Office Department, which name it has since continued to bear.

The site of that part of the village located on the north bank of the river, was selected as a desirable place of residence by Mrs. Baldwin, in 1797, while the family were on

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their way to Ovid, Seneca County, by way of the Mohawk River, Wood Creek, Oneida Lake and River, Seneca River and Cayuga Lake, to their newly selected home. At that time this was the only route of communication between the eastern and western portions of the State. Mrs. Baldwin, having left her comfortable home at Little Falls with regret, was assured by her husband that he would purchase the first place on their route, which she might select. On their way up the placid waters of the Seneca, rounding into the charming bay now just below the village, on a clear autumnal morning, they were charmed with the delightful prospect here presented. Every thing wore the air of solitude, yet there was something, after all, exceedingly attractive in the scene. They gazed upon it with admiration, and Mrs. Baldwin involuntarily exclaimed, "how beautiful;" then addressing herself to her husband, remarked, "if our property lay here, remote from settlements and lonely as it is, I should be willing to stop and take up my residence for life." That day was employed in getting their boat over the rapids. Their leisure time was spent in examining more minutely the prospect they had so much admired in the morning. The result was, that both were confirmed in their first impressions relating to this charming spot. The following night they lodged with a Mr. McHarrie, who had then settled on the south bank of the river, some forty rods above where the dam now joins that shore. From Mr. McHarrie, Dr. Baldwin learned who was the owner of the favorite lot on the opposite side of the river. The following year, (1798,) Dr. Baldwin went to Philadelphia to the owner and purchased it; since which he and his descendants have continued its owners. After residing a few years at Ovid, he sold his property there and came to Onondaga. In the mean time, settlers had located in different parts of the town of Lysander, and north part of Camillus, now Van Buren, and finding themselves in need of mills, and knowing McHarrie's rifts to be an excellent water power, these scattering settlers assembled, drew up a memorial, and sent it on by a strong delegation, in the spring of 1807, to Dr. Baldwin,



then residing at Onondaga, urging him, in the strongest terms, to improve his water power in the erection of mills upon those rapids. He had contemplated doing this at some future period, but not so soon by five or six years. Finally, yielding to entreaty, he resolved forthwith to enter upon the work. He immediately collected a number of laborers and mechanics, and proceeded at once by way of Onondaga Lake and Seneca River, (there being no roads,) to the place of destination. Previous to this, he had made arrangements for the erection of a suitable log cabin for himself and workmen, but upon arrival, he found only a couple of large cribs, without roofs or floors. The site of these structures was on the bank of the river, at the point where the canal above the pond leads from it. They were soon converted into comfortable dwellings. This double cabin was one of the first erected in this part of the town.

Supposing that a small stream, which empties into the river just below the site of the old lock, would, with the addition of so much water as might be thrown into it, by a race and wing dam extending into the river, be sufficient to drive his mills, he commenced the erection of a grist and saw mill at that point. All hands applied themselves most assiduously to the work, and every thing moved prosperously on, till about the middle of August, when what has since been known as the sickly season, commenced. Within one week every mechanic and laborer was attacked with a malignant fever. Not one escaped, except a Revolutionary soldier known as "Uncle Bill Johnson," (recently deceased,) and Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin. These were the only persons who left Onondaga in the spring in health, who did not fall victims to that disease. The log cabins were converted into hospitals, and the whole time of those who escaped, was taken up in attending upon the sick, and burying the dead. The work was of course for a time suspended, but as soon as possible a new set of hands were employed to prosecute it, and before they had been engaged a fortnight, every man was attacked with this direful disease. The season was now too far advanced for further

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operations, and the work was abandoned till the following spring, when it was again renewed with vigor, and before the sickly season again returned, the mill, race and dams were all completed. But here a new difficulty arose. A mistake had been made in the level; the water would not flow into the race, and the only supply was to be obtained from the small stream on which the mills stood, which at some seasons of the year was limited and precarious. Thus situated, he resolved to push his dam across the river, and at once set about the work. It was again suspended on account of sickness among the workmen, and it was not till late in autumn that Dr. Baldwin finished his dam, saw his race supplied with water, and his mills in successful operation. Desirable as this object was, it did not compensate for the personal sacrifices already made. Although but the second year since the first blow was struck, the settlement had already assumed the appearance of a log town in the wilderness. Many succeeding years the same difficulties were experienced. The same malignant disease visited this favorite spot, and many were brought by it to premature graves.

The Seneca River, being a public highway, and much used as such, it became immediately necessary to provide for the passage of boats around the dam. Dr. Baldwin therefore constructed a canal and lock for that purpose. In 1808, he petitioned the Legislature for permission to erect a dam, locks and a canal, at that point. The State having previously transferred its title to the "Inland Lock Navigation Company," could not with propriety grant privileges to Mr. Baldwin. He thereupon purchased of said company, their right and interest to all the waters, between the outlet of Oneida River and Cayuga Lake. In 1809, the Legislature granted his petition for such erections and improvements. Indeed, such was the difficulty in ascending those rapids, and danger in descending them, and so great had been the loss of property on the hidden rocks in the channel, that it was considered by the State and the Company, very desirable to have the improvements made, inasmuch as the Company long before had ceased to ex-

pend money for the improvement of those waters. This right was granted to Dr. Baldwin, and his assigns, for twenty years. The collection of certain tolls was authorized upon all boats passing through said canal and locks. At first the amounts collected were small, but with the growth of the country and increase of business they increased, and in time would have repaid the outlay, had not the State changed its policy and taken the entire subject of internal improvements, under its own control. The completion of the middle section of the Erie Canal, rendered nugatory the business of the original routes, since which this canal and the locks have been only a bill of expense, instead of affording revenue. In 1809, the dam across the river was swept away by a heavy spring freshet, and such was the nature of the damage sustained, that it became necessary to erect a new dam, which was not completed till the following year, when six saw mills under one roof were soon after put in successful operation by Dr. Baldwin. He this year erected a toll bridge across the river under provisions made by statute, upon the site now occupied by the free bridge.

About this time, a new grist mill of enlarged dimensions was erected by Dr. Baldwin, near the site of the present woolen factory. The same was afterwards converted into a woolen factory, and was subsequently burned down. He used his efforts successfully to procure the laying out of the State Road, between Onondaga Hill and Oswego, and also the act to be passed, authorizing the construction of a turnpike from Westmoreland to Sodus Bay, and expended considerable sums of money in these enterprises. The village continued prosperous and flourishing until 1819, Dr. Baldwin being the main-spring of all its principal movements. The diversion of the business usually done on the Seneca River to the Erie Canal, seemed for a time to paralyze every interest, and the village continued to decline, until the growth of the surrounding country rendered its water-power more valuable; when new energies and new investments of capital, awakened new-improvements; since which time, it has been steadily, if not

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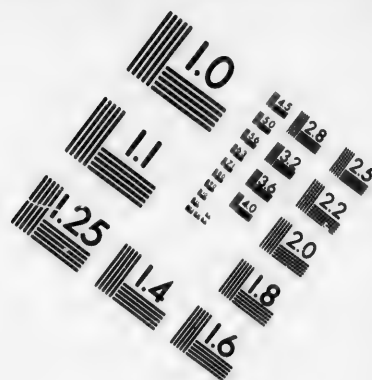
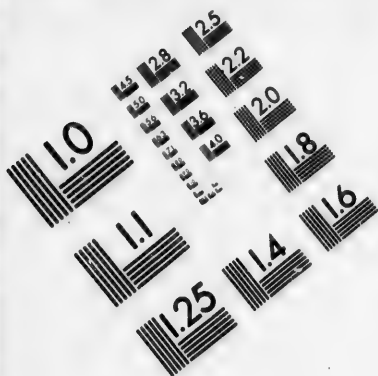
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rapidly advancing, and is now the most populous and flourishing village in the county. In 1819-20, such portions of the village as had not previously been sold, passed into the hands of Messrs. Stephen W. and Harvey Baldwin, the two eldest sons of Dr. Baldwin, by whom it is still held. These enterprising gentlemen made many improvements about the village, by rebuilding the toll bridge, enlarging the canal and locks, and rebuilding the dam. They also made extensive purchases on the Van Buren side of the river, laid out village lots, erected mills, and constructed a canal on that side of the river, and thus identified both sides in one common interest. Since 1807, saw mills have been erected almost without number. In 1808, Dr. Baldwin erected one with six saws and carriages. In 1824, Messrs. Start and Mott erected a mill with two saws and carriages. In 1826, Mr. James Johnson built a new mill with four saws and carriages, and Messrs. Stephen W. and H. Baldwin, a mill with a gang of fifteen saws. Start and Mott's mill burned down in 1834, and was re-built in 1847 by Richard M. Beach. In 1839, Thomas P. Campbell erected a mill with two saws and carriages. In 1848, Howard & Cook erected a mill with two saws and carriages. All these mills are furnished with buzz saws for cutting slabs into lath, and for other slitting purposes. Several grist mills have been built from time to time, but the best one was erected by Sandford C. Parker, in 1836-7. It is one hundred feet long by sixty feet broad, four stories high besides the basement; is calculated for ten run of stones, has six run in operation, and is capable of manufacturing two hundred barrels of flour, daily, besides custom grinding. There is an extensive woolen factory, called Kellogg's Woolen Factory, two tanneries, a set of planing machines and sash factory, two furnaces, two plaster mills, four carriage making shops, seven blacksmith shops, &c.

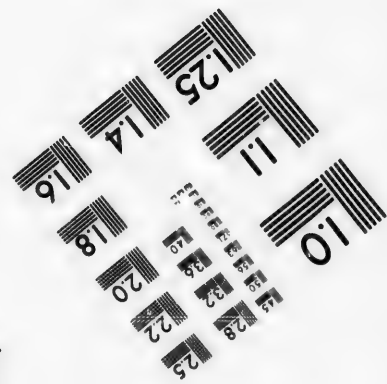
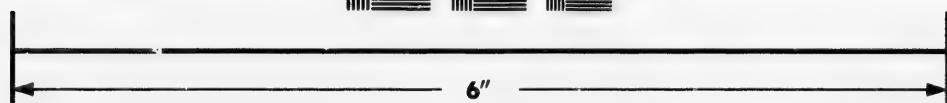
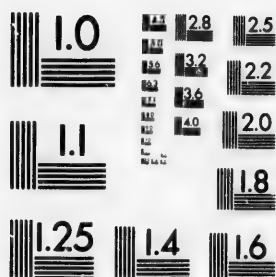
There are at present, (1849) over two thousand inhabitants in the village of Baldwinsville, seven stores, four taverns, seven lawyers, seven physicians, three clergymen, three meeting-houses for the Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist societies.

A few years since, an attempt was made to effect a change



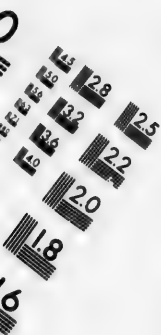


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in the name of the village; but the older inhabitants and early settlers who had been eye witnesses to the trials and hardships encountered and endured by Dr. Baldwin and his family, with a just appreciation of his services with a kind and grateful remembrance for his memory, with singular unanimity remonstrated against the measure, and defeated it.

The village was incorporated with the name of Baldwinsville, in 1848, under the provisions of the general law for village incorporations. There is not within our knowledge a locality, which in its early settlement, was attended with so many difficulties as this; and perhaps there is no village within our borders, where the improvements made by its first founder, have resulted in greater benefits to the surrounding country. A towing path on the north bank of the Seneca River, extending from Mud Lock to Baldwinsville, connects it with the Oswego Canal, and the rail road from Syracuse to Oswego passing through the eastern extremity of the village, is just completed. Having command of the whole volume of the waters of the Seneca River with a fall of ten feet, it furnishes one of the best sites for hydraulic works in this section of the country, and being surrounded by a country of great fertility and beauty, it must ever be a place of great and increasing importance.

Betts' Corners is a thriving little village in this town, with two churches, a tavern, one store, about forty dwellings, and the Lysander Post Office.

The town of Lysander was not fully organized until 1798, when the Supervisor, Mr. Asa Rice, who lived near Oswego, reported for the town, including the townships of Lysander, Hannibal and Cicero, the number of "fifteen" inhabitants, and the valuation of taxable property for the town was estimated at fifteen hundred dollars. Mr. Rice was supervisor till Hannibal was erected a town by itself. The old records of the town are not to be found. The records now in the Clerk's office, go no further back than 1808; at which time we find some of the principal town officers as follows, viz.: Elijah Snow, Supervisor, and James Adams, Town Clerk; Henry Emerick,

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William Wilson, James Clark, Assessors. In 1809, Elijah Snow, Supervisor; and Cyrus Baldwin, Town Clerk. 1811, Elijah Snow, Supervisor; — Williams, Town Clerk. 1812, the same. 1813, Jonas C. Baldwin, Supervisor; — Williams, Town Clerk.

Dr. Baldwin opened a store at Baldwinsville, in 1807, and continued to 1813. Judge Otis Bigelow commenced selling goods in the village of Baldwinsville, in 1813, and still continues; he is now the oldest merchant in the county. John Hammill opened a store in 1816. Baker & Wallace, in 1816; Jonas C. Brewster, 1821; Luther Badger, 1823; Robins & Wells, 1832; Sandford C. Parker, 1835; John H. Tomlinson & Co., 1838; and D. C. Lusk & Co., 1846.

Reuben S. Orvis, commenced the practice of law here first, in 1816; Samuel H. Hammond, in 1826; afterwards, Cornelius Pugsley, and others. Dr. Jonas C. Baldwin, on his first arrival at Baldwinsville, practiced medicine when necessary, till other physicians arrived. Dr. Cyrus Baldwin, established as a regular physician in 1814; Dr. Silas Wallace in 1816.

Post Office first established at Baldwinsville, in 1815; Jonas C. Baldwin, P. M. He was succeeded by Stephen W. Baldwin, Otis Bigelow, Austin Baldwin, and Daniel T. Jones.

The first Presbyterian society at Baldwinsville, was organized in 1813, and an Episcopal society, styled Grace Church, in 1838. There is a Methodist church at Cold Spring, a Dutch Reformed at Plainville.

Some of the ministers at Baldwinsville, have been Rev. Mr. Davenport, in 1814, died 1821; Rev. Messrs. Wait, Moulton, Baldwin, Morrell, R. Salmon, G. B. Engle, Willett, Beach, Williams, Merwin, Brown, Wheeler, Walker, and others.

The first newspaper established at Baldwinsville, was published in the spring of 1844, by Samuel B. West, and entitled the "BALDWINSVILLE REPUBLICAN." In October, 1846, it was transferred to C. Marks Hosmer, and entitled the "ONONDAGA GAZETTE." Since the 26th of January, 1848, it has been conducted by Shepard & Hosmer.

The Seneca River is notable for its fish. Cat-fish are caught



from ten to thirty-five pounds weight, each, and eels from one to six pounds, each; salmon were in former years abundant, but since the erection of dams across the Oswego River, this noble fish has entirely disappeared from the Seneca. Smaller fish are numerous and various in kind.

The year 1816, is memorable throughout the country, as "*the cold year.*" It is said that frosts occurred during every month. Crops were much injured and the Indian corn quite destroyed. That crop being the principal reliance of the Indian tribes in this vicinity, and with no provisions for the then approaching winter, they were in danger of being cut off by famine. Under these circumstances, a deputation of chiefs, from the Oneida nation, were sent to Dr. Baldwin, (they knowing him to be a man of wealth and benevolence,) to request him to furnish them with provisions for the winter. After some inquiries as to their necessities and number, Dr. B. agreed to furnish provisions for one-half of the nation. Early in the winter, therefore, they came on, about 250 in number, and encamped in a wood in the vicinity of the village, and near where the railroad now crosses the road leading to the new bridge, and remained there until the next spring, drawing their rations daily, like a small army.

This well timed benevolence of Dr. Baldwin, saved these destitute people from starvation; while the remainder of the nation were fed and carried through the winter by the charity of other individuals.

During the winter, Harvey Baldwin, (late mayor of Syracuse,) second son of Dr. B., being on a visit home, permission was asked by the chiefs to adopt him as their son, which request being granted, they assembled in grand council, and after great ceremony, such as is customary with Indians on occasions of this kind, gave him the name of "*Cohongoronto,*" by which name he is still known among the Oneidas, and which interpreted, signified a boat having a sharp prow, constructed for the navigation of rapid waters, and which was intended as emblamatical of the profession of law, in the study of which he was then engaged.

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At Cold Spring, three miles east of Baldwinsville, are the remains of an old fort, circular in form, and enclosing at least, three acres of ground, with a gate way. When first discovered by the whites, it had a ditch about it, four feet deep, and an embankment outside and inside the ditch, the outside one being a little the highest. Trees of large size were found growing on the embankment, and also in the ditch.

At the time Dr. Baldwin constructed his canal, before referred to, many Indian relics, such as hatchets of stone, flint arrow-heads, pipes, &c., were found several feet below the surface, thus showing that this locality had at a remote period, been a favorite resort of the red man of the forest.

Statistics for the town of Lysander, taken from the census of 1845: Number of inhabitants, 4506. 392 subject to military duty, 1027 voters, 66 aliens, 3 paupers, 1186 children attending common schools, 23508 acres of improved land, 2 grist-mills, 13 saw-mills, 1 fulling-mill, 1 carding-machine, 1 woolen-factory, 5 tanneries, 1 Baptist church, 2 Presbyterian do., 4 Methodist do., 1 Dutch Reformed do., 1 Unitarian do., 21 common schools, 2 select do., 13 taverns, 7 stores, 4 groceries, 480 farmers, 11 merchants, 12 manufacturers, 198 mechanics, 10 clergymen, 9 Physicians, and 3 attorneys.

CICERO.—This was one of the original townships, (number 6,) of the Military Tract. At the organization of the county, it was included in the town of Lysander. The township was set off into a town by itself, in 1807. It now contains about fifty-one lots of the original township, or about three hundred and twenty-six thousand acres of land.

A Mr. Dexter, a blacksmith, was the first white person who settled in this town, in 1790, opposite to Fort Brewerton, where he lived several years. Mr. Oliver Stevens settled on the north side of the river, in 1789, and cultivated a garden in the town of Cicero. A few years after, he moved to the south side of the river, where he died in 1813. Ryal Bingham settled at Fort Brewerton, 1791, and subsequently

moved to Salina. Mr. Stevens kept what was called a Boatman's tavern, furnishing provisions and other necessities, to those who passed that way. He carried on quite a trade with the Indians, in furs, peltry, &c., which at that early day, were abundantly afforded in all the country. Fort Schuyler was the great mart at that time, for the sale of furs, &c., and there, Mr. Stevens sold and exchanged his merchandize for his stock in trade. Mr. Stevens sometimes spent his winters at Salina, where in 1802, his son, J. L. Stevens, late Judge of Onondaga County Courts, was born. At that time there were no wagon roads or physician, nearer than Dr. Needham, of Onondaga Hollow. All the first settlements in this town were made along the river and Oneida Lake. John Leach settled at Cicero Corners, and for several years kept a tavern in a small log cabin, about 1802.

The first settlers suffered very much from fever and ague, and other diseases common to new countries, and sometimes they were not a little distressed for want of food. Elijah Loomis, was the first settler at South Bay, on the lake shore, in 1804. He and his wife now (1847) reside on the lot he first purchased. They have lived together sixty-four years. He was a Revolutionary soldier, and received a pension. Martin Woodruff settled near him the same year. Their nearest neighbors were at Brewerton, five miles distant.

In 1791, John Thayer, an old acquaintance of Oliver Stevens, came to Salina, and hearing that his friend had located at Fort Brewerton, (twelve miles distant,) he determined to make him a visit. It being winter, the undertaking was somewhat hazardous, but possessing a resolute mind and hardy constitution, he thought he could overcome all obstacles. He was directed to follow the Indian trail and blazed trees, but during his journey, he became bewildered, lost his way, and roamed about the woods three days and two nights, without shelter or food. He at last struck the Oneida River, several miles west of Stevens, and in attempting to cross the ice, broke through, got his legs and feet wet, and before he arrived at his place of destination, his feet were badly frozen. He

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suffered severely for several weeks, when his feet began to mortify. He was then conveyed to Dr. White, of Cherry Valley, on a sled by hand, where both limbs were amputated above the ankle. He is now (1847,) living at Palermo, Oswego County, hobbling about on his stumps, has some property, and enjoys very good health for one so advanced in years, comparatively cheerful and happy.

About the year 1811, sometime after the first settlement at South Bay, two small girls of the name of Shephard, went into the woods to look for the cows near night; after searching sometime in vain, they found themselves unable to trace their way back. The neighborhood was alarmed, and arrangements were speedily made for their recovery. The woods were scoured for twenty miles around, the most vigilant search was made day and night, and it was not till the third day at evening, that the little wanderers were found, snugly ensconced, fast asleep, beside an old log, unharmed. Their only food had been ground-nuts, wintergreens, &c., upon which they had subsisted. Patrick McGee, settled at Brewerton, in Cicero, in 1791, and that year erected the first frame house in this town, which was occupied as a tavern by him, and afterwards by Jonathan Emmons. It was located near where the Brewerton House now stands. It was a great place of resort for boatmen and townsmen.

In 1813, Jonathan Emmons was authorized by Legislative enactment, to establish a ferry across the outlet of Oneida Lake, at Fort Brewerton, town of Cicero, with exclusive privileges. A man, known familiarly as Tory Foster, first settled in the east part of the town. He frequently boasted of his cruelties towards his countrymen, during the Revolutionary war. He was under Sir John Johnson and Brant at the Cherry Valley and Wyoming massacres, and in their numerous incursions into the Mohawk country. People became so exasperated at him, at a late period, on account of his hostile relations and boastings, that he had frequently to flee and hide in the woods for several days at a time, to escape the vengeance of his neighbors. He one day went into the black-

smith shop of the late Judge Tousley, at Manlius, and commenced relating his cruelties and exploits against the Americans in the Revolutionary war. The Judge, then at the anvil, sledge in hand, listened patiently for some time; at length his patience became exhausted, he seized a heavy bar of iron and struck at him with his full strength. As luck would have it, the force of the blow was arrested by the iron striking a beam overhead. The miscreant instantly left the shop, not caring to continue his favorite theme in the presence of American patriots, contented to escape with his life. His ears were both cropped off before he came to this town. He wore his hair long to prevent the exposition of his disgrace.

Formerly, fish were abundant and easily caught in the river and lake; they consisted of salmon, pickerel, pike, perch, bass, catfish and eels, of a superior quality, all of which are now taken in great abundance, except salmon, which since the erection of dams across the Oswego River, have not made their appearance. Fish and venison constituted a great proportion of the provisions of the early settlers.

The distance of the first settlers to their nearest neighbors was twelve miles, (at Salina,) where settlements were made at an earlier period. The only means of getting there was on foot, following the Indian trail, which was much used by the natives, in passing from Onondaga to their fishing grounds, a practice which they continue to some extent up to the present time. What in 1791 was a low uninhabited wilderness, has since become a thickly settled and populous town, and promises to rival the best towns in the county, in richness of soil, variety of products, and wealth. There are some splendid locations for country seats along the river and lake shore, and ere long will undoubtedly be eagerly sought for by the elite, of our new-born city, for their country residences.

At the time the town was first settled it was overrun with bears, wolves, panthers and wild-cats. Deer were numerous, and the taking of beaver, foxes, muskrats and otters, formed a chief occupation for the trappers, who made of it a lucrative business. Two moose were killed by the Indians, near

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the north line of the town, in the year 1789, since which the animal has not been seen in this part of the country.

After the farmers began to raise sheep to some extent, wolves were very troublesome, often making serious inroads into the flocks. In February, 1819, in order to exterminate these vagrants, it was resolved, by some of the principal inhabitants, to get up a wolf hunt, and scour the town of Cicero, and root them out. Accordingly arrangements were made, advertisements were published in all the county papers, handbills were circulated throughout the county, the "*chasseur*" spirit of the county was on the *qui vive*. Many of the principal men at Salina, Manlius and Onondaga, entered into it with great spirit and glee. The author, then a mere boy, joined in the great expedition. On the day appointed, about sunrise, a line of men near ten miles long, about one rod apart, was formed across the town, from east to west. At the appointed signal, the whole line moved northward, towards the Oneida Lake, with a view of driving the wolves out upon the ice and shooting them down at pleasure. The line moved on in good order, amidst the blowing of horns, the hallooing of boys, and cracking of rifles. After marching upwards of six miles to the lake, the hunters found they had only driven a few frightened deer before them, some of which were killed. Some hunters had preceded the line for the purpose of killing deer as they passed them; not a wolf or bear was seen during the whole route. But it seems to have had a good effect, for the howl of a wolf has not been heard in town since.

In the Cicero swamp there are said to be a few swamp rattle-snakes, much smaller than those occupying more elevated situations. They seem to possess the same characteristics, dispositions and poisonous qualities; they are nearly black in color, have a dull sleepy look, but seldom bite unless provoked; they usually give timely notice of their whereabouts by shaking their rattles.

The intercourse of the early settlers of this town with the Indians, was frequent and of the most friendly character. They were usually honest, but rather slack pay-masters if

trusted. It was once quite a place of resort for the Oneidas and Onondagas, on account of hunting and fishing.

The first meeting house in town was built of logs for the Presbyterian Society, at Cicero Corners, 1819; a frame one in 1830. The first settled minister was the Rev. Truman Baldwin, a Presbyterian, who occupied the station several years, afterwards went west, has recently returned, and taken charge of his former flock. The next organized religious society was a Baptist one, in 1832, at the same place, which continued such, a few years; but a majority of the congregation, embracing new views, called themselves Campbellites, retained possession of the house, and in effect broke up the society; they never had a settled minister, but held their meetings regularly. The society is small, and their increase not very rapid. Afterwards, the Methodists built a church in the east part of the town. Except the first named, these churches are respectable frame buildings, painted and finished in modern style. Previous to the erection of churches, the different religious societies held their meetings in the school houses usually built of logs.

The first school was kept at Brewerton, in 1792; the number of scholars was small. It was taught by Deacon George Ramsey, a Scotch Presbyterian, of good education and qualifications as a teacher of youth. He was a man very much respected and beloved. He continued his labor of teaching for a number of years. He died but a few years ago, much lamented by all who knew him.

Isaac Cody was the first merchant in Cicero. He erected a store at Cicero Corners in 1818, filled it with goods, and did quite an extensive business. People frequently came to trade with him from Salina and Onondaga. Samuel Warren opened the next store in 1825, and did a flourishing business.

Daniel H. Orcott was the first regular physician who located in this town in 1817, had an extensive practice. Alexander Cook settled in this town as the first practising attorney, in 1841. Isaac Codey was the first Post Master, appointed in 1820. The mail was then carried once a week on horseback.

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Since then there have been as many as sixteen mails a week. Now there are but six a week. Rev. John Shepard was the first Justice of the Peace in 1804.

The first town meeting was held at the house of Patrick McGee, at Three-River-Point, 1807. Moses Kinne was Moderator, and Thomas Pool was elected Supervisor; Elijah Loomis, Town Clerk. There are four public burying grounds in the present town of Cicero.

There are no antiquities of note in this town, though frequently along the shore of the river and lake, are found relics of war, such as arrow-heads and axes of stone, and occasionally an Indian's grave. In one of these a small brass kettle was found, in which was a bunch of grapes; at first appearance, they were as fresh and good looking as if just gathered, but upon exposure to the air, soon crumbled to dust. Mr. Loomis, before named, in 1804, plowed up a musket of the kind usually called Queen's arms; the stock of which was almost entirely rotted away, and the barrel much decayed by rust.

**FRENCHMAN'S ISLAND.**—Eight miles up the lake, and in full view of the village, is a small and beautiful island of circular form, containing about twenty-five acres of land, and is still covered with a primitive forest, which renders the scene beautiful and picturesque.

There is an incident connected with this island, true indeed, and which adds greatly to its interest. About the year 1800, it became the abode of a Frenchman and his wife, named Devitz. The lady was one of the noblest and wealthiest in France; she became attached to a French gentleman, far below her rank, and for this, had incurred her father's displeasure, who refused his assent to their alliance. An elopement and marriage were the consequence; and being pursued by her angry parent, they fled to this country, and still fearing his pursuit and vengeance, they left the city of New-York, where they at first landed, and resolved to bury themselves, far away from the haunts of busy men, in some dreary and



uninhabited forest. Following the usual channels of communication, they ascended the Mohawk River, and thence along the Oneida Lake in a canoe, until they arrived at this beautiful island, upon which they encamped for the night. So pleased were they with the solitude which everywhere surrounded them, and with the grandeur of the scenery that here presented itself, they at once resolved to make it the place of their abode. He soon erected a comfortable hut; and subsequently, with the assistance of some boatmen, put up a log house, in which they spent seven summers. His winters, he usually spent in Albany. His cabin was graced with books and musical instruments, and his beautiful garden was cultivated by his own hands. The remains of this house and some fruit trees of his planting, are still to be seen.

At length, the day of their deliverance arrived—the angry father had relented. Unwilling to relinquish his only daughter, he had continued his search; and after an absence of some seven years from her friends, he sought and found, and forgave his child; and taking her, her husband and three little ones, returned with them rejoicing to his home, settled upon them his immense fortune, and shortly afterwards died. Those children, born upon that island, (which has ever since been known as “*Frenchman's Island*,”) are said to be at this day, among the most distinguished personages of France. This incident, and the beauty of the spot, attracts thither many visitors, who not only gratify their curiosity, but enjoy a delightful sail, and usually a *picknick*, upon the *Island*.

BREWERTON.—The village of Brewerton, situated at the outlet of Oneida Lake, on the southern bank of the river, was laid out by Orsamus Johnson, Daniel Wardwell, Miles W. Bennet, and Harvey Baldwin, Esqrs., into village lots in 1836; and that portion which remained unsold, is now owned by Messrs. Johnson, Bennet and Baldwin. Its position at the foot of the lake is remarkably beautiful and healthy; and being surrounded by a fertile and thriving country, promises to become at no distant day, a village of importance. It is con-

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ned with Syracuse by a level plank road, which renders access easy to either place, at all seasons. Brewerton is a place very much frequented in the summer months, by pleasure parties from the city of Syracuse.

FORT BREWERTON—the ruins of which are in the town of Hastings, in Oswego County, on the opposite side of the river from the village, deserves a passing notice.

There can probably at this late day, be but little that is new gleaned, with which to give a full and authentic history of this ancient fortification; however, as this place was of considerable notoriety at the time it was first occupied by the English, we give a drawing as it now appears, and the following history, which is all we can gather respecting it.

Whether the French ever held the occupancy of this place, is a matter of great uncertainty. It is possible, however, that the Count de Frontenac, at the time he obtained permission of the Iroquois to build forts in their country, one might have been erected here; and it is also possible, that a fort might have been erected here at an earlier period by traders, who had their establishments far and wide through the country. But this matter relating to French occupancy, is in entire obscurity, so far as the researches of the author of this have extended.

During the old French War, from 1755 to 1763, there was a great strife between the English and French, as to which nation should secure to themselves the great thoroughfare from Oswego to the Mohawk valley. The French had ingratiated themselves into favor with the savages, and had been to some extent successful in gaining their affections.

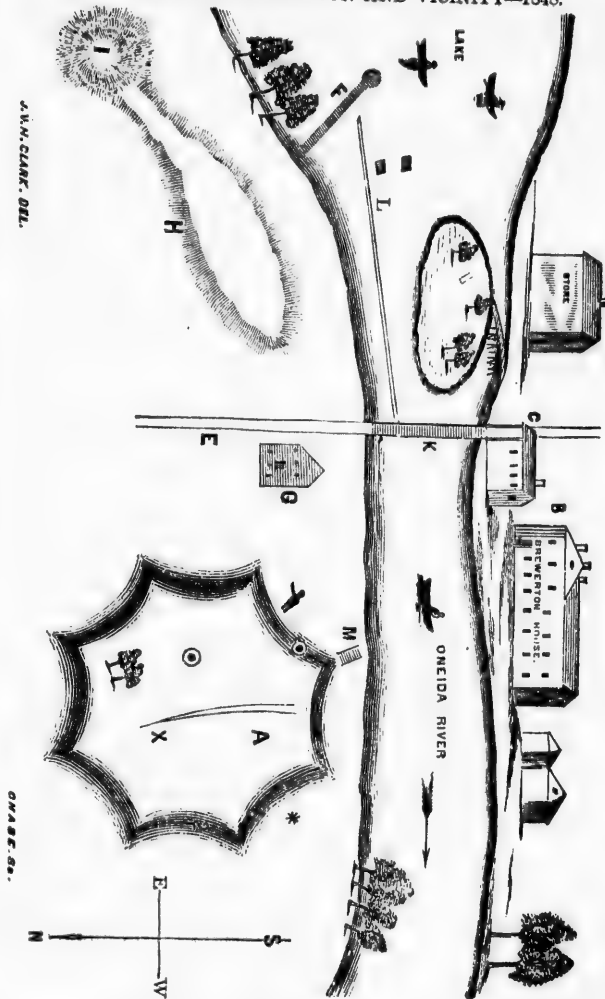
In 1758, General Stanwix had erected a strong fortress at what is now called Rome, at the enormous expense of two hundred and sixty-six thousand four hundred dollars, to secure the key at that important carrying place, and also a stockade enclosure, as a defense against the Indians at the outlet of Oneida Lake. After the reduction of Fort Frontenac by Col. Bradstreet, in 1758, he re-took possession of the forts at

Oswego, which were again garrisoned. It was at this period that the design was formed by General Abercrombie, of erecting a substantial fort, to command the entrance to Lake Oneida from the west, as it was already commanded on the east, by Fort Stanwix. A detachment was sent from Oswego, the following year, to co-operate with one from Fort Stanwix, and an earthen fort completed on the plan as it now appears, and named Fort Brewerton, in honor of Captain Brewerton, whose name appears in the papers of that day, as an officer of merit, and who was active on the frontier at Oswego, Oneida Lake and Mohawk Valley. (See N. Y. Mercury, 1755-56.)

It was garrisoned during part of the summer of 1756, by Lieutenant Colonel Bull, and was made a depot for military stores, several years, with a small garrison, till the close of the French war in 1762; and during Pontiac's war, it was again garrisoned by a company under command of Captain Mungo Campbell, of the fifty-fifth Highlanders, was a place of deposit for considerable military stores, and was considered a place of importance. In the spring of 1764, we find Captain Thomas Morris stationed there for a short time, who, during the following summer, proceeded to Niagara and Detroit. It was also a favorite resting place for the troops passing and re-passing from Fort Stanwix to Oswego, Niagara and back, and is often mentioned in the diary of Sir William Johnson, and other English officers of that period. There are no accounts extant of battles having been fought at this place; but from appearances, and the number of human bones found in the vicinity, and which are frequently disinterred even at this day, it is but reasonable to suppose, that severe battles have at some remote period, been fought by Indians on this ground. The fort when built by the English, was considered of great consequence to the safety and protection of the frontier.

It was a regular octagon, about three hundred and fifty feet in diameter, surrounded by a wall of earth about five feet high, above the interior area of the works. In front of this wall, was a ditch about ten feet deep, from the top of the inside

## VIEW OF FORT BREWERTON AND VICINITY—1848.



EXPLANATIONS.—A—Fort. X—Ditch. O—Wells. M—Covered Gate-way.  
 2—Ditch six feet deep. G—Block House. E—Plank Road. K—Bridge. C  
 —Toll House. B—Brewerton House and Sheds. D—Island. F—Ancient  
 Mole for Sentry-box. L—Coffer-dam. H—Sand-bank. 1—Mound filled with  
 Human Bones.

wall, encompassing the whole. In front of the ditch, encircling the whole, was another embankment, not quite as high as the interior one, corresponding to it in all its lines and angles, with a covered gateway on the south side, facing the river. In the interior embankment was set a row of palisades, about twenty feet high, with loop holes and embrasures. It is situated on a gentle elevation, about forty rods from the river; and when garrisoned and armed for war, could easily command the passage of the river, and must have presented a formidable barrier.

A little east of the fort, was built at the same time with the fort, a mole of huge rocks, about ten rods into the river, at the end of which was placed a sentry's box, where a sentinel was continually posted, to watch for enemies passing up the river. From the extremity of this mole, the river could be commanded by view for many miles, and the lake, as far as the eye could reach. Time, and the continual dashing of the waves have destroyed this mole, the ruins of which are still to be seen under water. Its position is preserved in the drawing. More than a hundred acres of the land around the fort, was cleared of a heavy growth of timber, which gave a clear prospect of the shore for more than a mile in extent.

In the sand bank east of the fort, are found in different places, graves of men of extraordinary stature; some of the bones which have been disinterred, must have belonged to men over seven feet high. The mound at the eastern extremity of the bank, is full of human bones; and must have been the place of sepulchre for thousands. Whether these were slain in battle, or whether it has been a depository for the dead in time of peace, it is not easy to determine; but from the fact that they are the bones of adult persons, and apparently all of males, it is highly probable they are the relics of the victims of war.

Mr. Oliver Stevens was induced to settle at Fort Brewerton in 1789, by the representations of two brothers who had been in garrison there, in 1756-7-8. They represented to Oliver the beauties and fertility of the spot, and without previous ex-

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amination, solely upon their statement, he came on, took possession and opened a trader's store. During the exciting scenes of 1790-1, 2, 3, 4, when the Indians were so troublesome on our western frontiers, and while the British still held possession of Oswego, Mr Stevens was commissioned by Gov. Clinton, to erect a block house at this place, a portion of which is still standing in a dilapidated condition. It was afterwards occupied as a dwelling till 1811. Here was made a large deposit of ammunition and warlike stores. A trench was dug about it, and pickets, twelve feet long, erected, of heavy logs, about four rods from the house. It had a substantial gate and way, on the side towards the river. After the restoration of peace, and the removal of the British garrison from Oswego, the stores were removed, by order of the Governor, to Albany, since which the fort and block house have gone rapidly to ruin. Mr. Stevens has found about the fort a variety of warlike implements. Upon one occasion, inside the fort, the hogs rooted up a keg of wrought nails; the remains of chimnies and blacksmith's forges were visible when he came on, and a curious kind of small red hard burned brick, with which they were constructed, were found. This has ever been, and still is a place of considerable interest. Some two years ago a steamboat was started to run on the Oneida Lake. The Legislature of the State of New-York appropriated a sum of money to improve the navigation of the river, built a coffer dam at Brewerton to deepen the channel and subdue the rift. A commodious lock was built, four miles below Brewerton, and another at Oak Orchard, nine miles below, to favor the navigation to Oswego. An appropriation of twenty thousand dollars was made last year, (1847,) for the improvement of the navigation of Oneida River, and is soon to be expended.

The new bridge erected last season cost over two thousand dollars, and is an excellent structure. The plank road from Salina to Central Square, crosses the river at this point, and has done more for the improvement of this country than all things else put together.

Like many other of the pioneers of this country, Mr. Ste-



vens endured many privations, and was a participant in many startling incidents and adventures. On one occasion, in the month of March, 1792, he resolved to attend the town meeting of the town of Mexico, held that year at what is now Pulaski. He started off early in the morning, with his gun in hand, and a knapsack of provisions on his back. There was no road nor scarcely a path; he relied mainly on his skill as a woodsman, and his knowledge of the wanderings of the sun to guide him safely through his journey. He traveled on, unconscious of harm, till near the middle of the afternoon, when he found himself in the vicinity of a pack of hungry wolves. By their howling, he was aroused not only to a sense of his danger, but to the fact that he had lost his way, and that he had no means of recovering it. He set forward with vigor, in hope of coming out at a "*clearing*" in the vicinity of the place of his destination, but all to no purpose; the more he exerted himself, the more he became convinced of the peril of his situation. The wolves drew nearer and nearer, and seemed by their boldness, to be meditating an attack. At length, one bolder than his companions, a large black one, advanced to within a few paces of him, upon which he fired and killed him dead. The scent of the blood of the dead wolf, seemed to increase the voracity of the survivors, and for a time he thought he should in turn be slain. Nothing daunted, he stood at bay looking them firmly in the eye, and after awhile, they retired a respectful distance, sitting around on their haunches, as if holding a council of war. During this cessation of hostilities, Mr. Stevens struck a fire and kindled it, reloaded his gun, and sallied forth, dragging the dead wolf by the heels to his fiery fortress. At this stage of the war, it seemed as if the fury of the wolves was ungovernable; they came very near, growling and snapping their teeth, in the greatest anger. He cast burning brands among them, and finally they dispersed. Upon this, he added more fuel to the fire, got up a bright light, and began to feel somewhat secure. His next business was to secure the skin of his fallen foe, which was soon effected. By this time it became quite dark.

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A quantity of fuel was gathered. Here the solitary wanderer stood all night, not daring to refresh himself with sleep, amid the din and howlings of the hungry wolves. Towards morning he was relieved from his anxiety by the retreat of the wolves, who left, and disturbed him no more. He now prepared a hasty meal at the fire, partook of it, and concluded to retrace his steps. Packing up his wolf skin, he proceeded homeward. The sun rose to meridian, and still he traveled on; night came, and for ought he could tell, he was no nearer home than when he started in the morning. Being weary with his day's journey, he again kindled a fire, laid himself down to rest, and slept soundly till morning. At early dawn he again set forward in quest of home, and about ten o'clock in the morning, to his indescribable joy, discovered the British flag flying from the fort at Oswego. The officers of the garrison, to whom he related his adventure, treated him with great kindness. With them he spent the remainder of the day, and next morning set out with a light heart for home. The day following, being the fifth from his departure, he arrived safely to the bosom of his family, who had already become somewhat alarmed for his safety. The bounty then paid by the State for a full grown wolf, was forty dollars, which he in due time received. This in some degree proved a balm for his sufferings; but for which, he would not again encounter the danger he had so greatly risked.

The following year, while at dinner with his family, a man came running to the door, almost breathless and dripping with water, stammering out with a tremulous voice, that he and his companion had been attacked by a bear in the river, and driven from their boat; he feared the bear would kill his friend, and wished Mr. Stevens to go instantly with his gun and kill him. He started at once, re-primed his gun, and hastened with all possible dispatch to the scene of the disaster.

When arrived, they found the remaining man on shore wet through and through, moaning in the bitterest anguish the hardness of his lot. The fact was, as the two were proceeding up the river, the bear at the same time attempted to swim



across; upon seeing the bear, the boatmen resolved to have some sport and capture him. They rowed along side and aimed a blow at Bruin's head, who evaded it, and before they could recover themselves, scrambled over the side of the boat and drove the astonished Frenchmen into the river. They were forced to make a virtue of necessity, and one ran for help, while the other watched the boat and its new occupant. On the arrival of Mr. Stevens at the scene of action, his bearship was majestically seated at the stern, calmly surveying the scene, quietly floating down the current, as undisturbed as a king upon his throne. A shot from Mr. Stevens' rifle, bereft the monarch of his titles and his life at once. The boatmen swam to the boat and rowed up to the landing. When the prize was dressed, it was found to exceed three hundred pounds in weight. This seasonable trophy was placed to good account, for it served as pork for the family and the hungry boatmen who passed that route, for many a day.

About five miles north of Salina, in the town of Cicero, near the old State road, was a place where, at some early period, either during the old French war, or during the war of the Revolution, a prisoner fell a victim to savage cruelty. The tradition of the affair is like this: a party of Indians, in some of their incursions to the then western settlements of New-York, probably Schenectady, or perhaps Wyoming or Cherry Valley, returned through this region, and brought with them prisoners, and at this point resolved on having an *auto da fe*. One poor fellow bound hand and foot, was compelled to run the gauntlet, with the promise, if successful, of being restored to liberty. Two parallel lines were arranged, and the prisoner started to run, as best he could, between them. He made several surprising leaps, bound as he was, and finally succeeded in passing amid sundry blows, beyond the lines, to the goal of promised safety. At this moment a young warrior drew up his rifle and shot him dead; who, for his treachery, was instantly pierced by more than twenty balls from the rifles of his companions. For several years, the Indians returned to this spot, renewed the tracks

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made in the sand by the murdered prisoner, held a war dance, and returned to their homes. This practice was continued long after the white people settled in the neighborhood. The last time they visited the spot, they got into a quarrel among themselves, and it is said, two of the party were killed and several badly wounded.

The first mills erected in the vicinity, were at Rotterdam, by Mr. Scriba, from Holland, on the north side of the lake, in 1800. The grist mill was sufficient to grind all the grain in the country for a hundred miles around. Then, however, there was but little grinding to be done. Previous to this, those who could muster a grist of two or three bushels, which was then called a very large one, would put it on board a boat bound for the Bay of Quinté, in Canada, and after three or four weeks it would be returned. Others preferred pounding their corn in stump mortars, thereby saving toll and risk of loss.

At first there were no roads for many years. The people used to follow the Indian trails, and marked trees, on foot. Roads were first made from house to house, and place to place, and through this town were till recently proverbially bad, being cut through low and swampy ground, without even causeways or bridges. In 1812, the Legislature passed an act to cut a road from Salina to Brewerton, through the center of the township. The expense was advanced by the State, but a tax was laid on the lands contiguous, to defray it. The inhabitants got a poor road for what a good one should have cost. In 1825, an act was passed authorizing the building of a turnpike road from Salina north, through the town of Cicero, but the inhabitants, rather doubting the profitableness of an investment, the stock was not taken, and the scheme failed. In 1830, an act was passed providing for the construction of a timber or hard surface road. This failed also. In 1845, an act was passed by the Legislature, authorizing a company to make a plank, timber or hard surface road, from Salina to Central Square, through Cicero, from south to north. In 1846, a plank road was completed, being the first of the



When Clay was set off from Cicero in 1827, two hundred and seventy-five acres of this lot were retained for the town of Cicero, the income of which is about one hundred and forty dollars per year. Towards the south part of this town, is an extensive swamp, containing about four thousand acres, with but little timber. The surface is covered with very thick moss, capable of bearing a man, who finds no difficulty in walking over it when it is not covered with water. Wild cranberries are abundant here. A sharp pole can be thrust through the surface, to the depth of seven or eight feet, the whole being composed of black decayed vegetable matter, resting upon a bed of marl. It is not unlikely, that this at some future day, will become the most valuable land in the country. It lies some twenty-five feet higher than the lake, and presents admirable facilities for draining. Twenty years ago, wood, cut and corded, was worth but three shillings a cord; it is now worth five shillings a cord, standing. A scarcity of timber is already beginning seriously to be felt. The extensive and beautiful forests have been cleared, and in their place tasteful mansions have risen up, and the hum of business prevails, where but a few years since, nothing was heard but the howl of wild beasts, and the strokes of the woodman's ax.

Captain John Shepard, who served in the Revolutionary war, drew lot number eleven, Cicero, lying at the outlet of Oneida Lake. At an early day he took possession of his lot, sold a part of it, cleared and cultivated the residue, and with his family, lived happily upon it many years, till his death, in 1824. After the war, he became a Presbyterian preacher, and officiated as such during a great part of his residence here. He was the only man who occupied a lot in this town for which he served. It has been related to the author by several capable of judging, that he was a superior Latin and Greek scholar, and excelled in the classical literature of the ancients. He was a most excellent man, and his death was much lamented by all who knew him.

According to the census of 1845, there are in this town: number of inhabitants, 2651. 223 subject to military duty,

597 voters, 23 aliens, 624 children attending common schools, 8192 acres of improved land, 1 saw-mill, 2 asheries, 3 tanneries, 1 Baptist Church, 1 Methodist do., 1 Dutch Reformed do., 16 common schools, 4 taverns, 6 Stores, 450 farmers, 7 merchants, 50 mechanics, 3 Clergymen, 2 physicians, 2 lawyers.

CLAY.—This town was originally a part of the Military Township of Cicero, and was erected therefrom in 1827. Much of its early history, therefore, is comprehended in the town of Cicero. The town of Clay received its name in honor of the distinguished statesman, Henry Clay. The name was at first objectionable to a portion of the inhabitants, who for several years after its organization, petitioned the Legislature to alter it, but without effect. At the time the town was organized, it contained less than seven hundred inhabitants. The first white settler in this town, then Lysander, was Patrick McGee, at Three-River-Point, in 1793, and in 1798, Adam Coon settled in the north east corner of the town, and Simeon Baker, on the Seneca River, in 1799. In 1800, John Lyne settled near the centre of the town, and is now (1847) living, at the advanced age of ninety-seven years, since which, the town has settled somewhat rapidly. Joshua Kinne and family, settled in this town in 1807, Elijah Pinckney and others, the same year, and soon after, Patrick McGee erected the first frame house in town, at Three-River-Point, in 1808 or '9. When Mr. McGee first visited this place, which was in 1780, while a prisoner to the British, on his way to Fort Oswego and Canada, there was an extensive clearing at this point, handsomely laid in grass, without a shrub or tree for something like a mile or more along the banks of each river. This spot was often appropriated to the holding of the great councils of the Iroquois confederacy. Upon this spot, Dekanissora, Sadekanaghte and Garangula have addressed the braves of the Hurons and Adirondacks, and the Abenakis. And here too, have the French and the English met, in these distinguished chiefs, orators and diploma-

tists, equal skill.

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tists, equal to themselves, in all that pertains to sagacity and skill.

Japheth Kinne settled in Cicero about the year 1809. The first settlers, previous to clearing their lands, procured their breadstuffs from Jackson's mills, near Jamesville. And after they had been successful in raising grain of their own, went there to mill, till the mills were erected at what is now Syracuse. It was customary for men to carry a grist of a bushel or a bushel and a half, on their backs, a distance of twelve or fourteen miles, to these mills through the woods, guided only by blazed trees, occupying two or three days in the performance of the journey. After roads were cut through, a neighbor would take the grists of a whole neighborhood upon an ox sled or cart, and carry them to these mills. By general arrangement and common consent, this service was performed by rotation, throughout the whole settlement, never taking less than two days to perform the journey. Onondaga Hollow was then the only Post-Office at which letters were received and delivered, and persons visiting the Post-Office, brought the mail matter for the whole neighborhood in which he resided.

The first and most important article of trade was salt barrels, large quantities of which are manufactured and carried to the salt works, which bring a fair profit, and in many instances have proved a source of individual wealth.

The first Post-Office was established in the west part of the town, and called "West Cicero," about the year 1825, and Nathan Teall appointed Post Master. Mr. Teall was succeeded by William Hale and James Little. Since the town was organized it has been named "Clay."

A log school house, the first in this town, was erected at Clay Corners about 1808, and a teacher named Hall, taught the first school. At Clay, near the river, a log school house was erected, in 1809, and a frame one in 1812—Moses Kinne, the teacher. He previously kept a school in his own house.

The first Physician in town, was Dr. Olcott; the second, Dr. Church, and afterwards, Dr. Starling and Dr. Soule.

The first town meeting for Clay, was held in April, 1827. Andrew Johnson chosen the first Supervisor, and Jacob Terrel, Town Clerk.

Post-Office established at Euclid, in 1827—Andrew Thompson, first Post Master, to 1832, afterwards Nathan Soule.

Jefferson Freeman, the first merchant at Euclid, 1831. Blossom & Dyckman, L. Soule, and Stone & Daniels, have been merchants here.

The bridge across the Seneca River, was first built by the Sodus Bay and Westmoreland Turnpike Company, erected in 1824, but not completed. The turnpike was not made, and J. L. Voorhees, Esq., obtained a charter in his own name, finished the bridge, which was a toll bridge till 1843, when it was re-built as a free bridge. The State Legislature appropriated eight hundred and fifty dollars towards defraying the expense, and the towns of Lysander and Clay, each one thousand dollars. Whole cost, two thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars.

The village at this point, is called Belgium, and is situated on both sides of the Seneca River. There were only four dwelling houses here in 1827. There are now twenty-eight; and one hundred and sixty inhabitants, three dry good stores, four grocery and provision stores, two taverns, three blacksmiths, one tailor and one shoe shop, and the famous "Oriental Balm Pill" manufactory, which last employs a great part of the year from thirty to fifty persons. James Little was the only family in 1828, on the Lysander side, but others settled there about that time, viz: Henry V. S. McMechan, Oliver Bigsbee, Sylvenus Bigsbee, Garnett C. Sweet, who had charge of the Col. Newkirk property, Rev. William M. Willett, a son of Col. Marinus Willett, of Revolutionary renown, who occupied a lot drawn by his father, which was afterwards transferred to Mr. John Stevens and others. Dr. Adams had a store here, in 1838, and Phillip Farrington, in 1831. First frame building was the toll house, on the east side of the river, erected in 1825. Japheth Kinne erected the first dwell-

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ing house, in 1825. James Little, the second, in 1829. First school kept here, was by Perry Eno, 1827.

First merchant, Martin Luther, in 1828, Sylvanus Bigsbee & Co., 1828. Jonas C. Brewster, succeeded them in 1829. James Little, 1830.

The Methodist Wesleyan society erected their house of worship here in 1832.

Physicians here, have been, first, Dr. A. P. Adams, second Dr. Hays McKinley, third, Dr. James V. Kendall, fourth, Botanic Dr. Daniel W. Bailey. There has never a lawyer settled in this town.

At Oak Orchard Rift, near the bank of the river, are the evidences of an extensive burying ground. This rift was a common fording place for the Indians, and formerly was much resorted to by them for fishing.

The first saw-mill was erected in the north east part of the town, by Abraham Young, on a small stream which affords water to drive the mill only in spring and fall. There are no streams in this town of sufficient capacity to be used to advantage, for machinery of any kind. The only streams of any magnitude, are the Oneida River, on the north, and Seneca River, on the west.

The first house of worship, was erected in the north east part of the town, in what is called the Dutch Settlement, by a society of Dutch Reformed.

The Baptists have a society—Elders Warner and Lamb, were the first clergymen who settled here. Their house of worship was erected in 1838. Obadiah Morrell was their minister for a time.

This, like the other towns in the northern section of the county, is fast improving, and bids fair to take rank among the first.

Statistics for the town of Clay, taken from the census of 1845:—Number of inhabitants, 2789. 267 subject to military duty, 619 voters, 29 aliens, 3 paupers, 531 children attending common schools, 12776 acres of improved land, 4 saw-mills, 1 Baptist church, 1 Dutch Reformed do., 18 com-



mon schools, 1 select do., 4 taverns, 3 stores, 5 groceries, 435 farmers, 3 merchants, 9 manufacturers, 55 mechanics, 5 clergymen, and 3 physicians.

MANLIUS. — AZARIAH SMITH. — The parents of Azariah Smith, lived at Middlefield, Massachusetts, where the subject of this notice was born, December 7th, 1784. His father, Matthew Smith, was a farmer in moderate circumstances, and unable to afford a liberal education to a numerous family; consequently, this son received only the limited education furnished by the common schools of that period, with the addition of three months attendance at Westfield Academy. We have heard him say, that much of his early education was acquired at the family fireside, while his mother and sisters were diligently sewing or knitting, and his father listening to the inquiries of his sons and answering their questions, in the rudiments of their education. His summers were spent at home with his father upon the farm, and his winters, after he was of suitable age, were employed in teaching school, until he arrived at the age of twenty-one years. The next spring after he became of age, he was employed by a neighboring farmer, for whom he labored six months. The succeeding winter, he taught a school, as had been his practice for several years; and about the first of April, 1807, started on horseback for Onondaga Hill, with the intention of becoming a clerk in the store of his cousin, Calvin Smith. In due time he arrived at his destined place, and entered upon the duties of a clerk as he had contemplated. He continued with his cousin about eight weeks, when Mr. John Meeker, then the proprietor of several stores in this county, proposed to Mr. Smith to open another store at Manlius, to furnish all the capital, and give to him one-half the profits, as a compensation for going there and taking charge of the business. This offer was accepted, and on the 3d day of June, 1807, they opened a store in Manlius village, in a frame building on the south side of the turnpike, nearly opposite the brick store which he afterwards built and occupied, and which is now occupied by his son Charles. Thus, after a

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Engr. by F. Halpin. From a Daguerotype.

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clerkship of only eight weeks, Mr. Smith from a laboring farmer, became a merchant, having charge of a large stock of goods, and at once entered upon an extensive mercantile career. His tact and capacity for the transaction of important business, manifested itself at once in his first intercourse with the world, and a person had only to transact business with him, to become satisfied of his competency for any branch within the ordinary range of human affairs. He was extremely rapid in his arithmetical calculations and almost universally correct; so much so, that few who were acquainted with him, took the trouble to review or examine his computations. It was enough in the minds of most persons, that business was done by him, and it seemed to be a guarantee that it was done correctly. In the outset, he established a character for strict honesty and integrity, characteristics which were predominant throughout a long life of complicated and laborious toil.

He continued in partnership with Mr. Meeker until the 16th of June, 1810; during which time, he amassed sufficient capital to enable him to embark in business on his own account.

He was married to Miss Zilpha Mack, in August, 1811, by the Rev. Jonathan Nash. He soon arranged his affairs, and opened an extensive store for the times, and was unusually successful in all his undertakings. Subsequently, he entered extensively into the cotton manufacturing business, which he pursued with varied success to the time of his decease. As he became known abroad, his rare business talents developed themselves, and he was often called upon to exercise them in the settlement of other people's affairs. There were few men in the country who could keep pace with him in the various combinations of numbers as they presented themselves in the operations of business; and the Hon. Silas Wright, (who was ever acknowledged as a superior arithmetician) with whom he once had occasion to come in contact in the settlement of a long and complicated set of accounts, remarked, that he was the only man he had ever met with, whose rapidity of compu-

tation was such, that he could not easily follow. It frequently seemed as if he jumped at conclusions without an effort. He would often take a bond upon which endorsements upon endorsements had been made, in time and out of time, and comparatively without thought or mental effort, and with but an occasional figure, set down the correct result.

While he lived, perhaps there was not his equal in the transaction of business in the State, certainly not in our country. Possessed of an iron constitution, he would sit more hours at a table than any other person would be willing to; and if within the range of any reasonable time, would not rise until what was to be done was accomplished.

Promptitude, dispatch, forecast, celerity and accuracy, being prevailing elements of his character, he would accomplish more labor within a given time, than any one known to the circle in which he acted.

He was remarkable for the versatility of his powers, and could readily turn his attention from one kind of business to another; and, while some persons would spend hours in doubt as to what should next be done, he would dispose of what presented itself, and again be in readiness for something new. If there was a knotty, tangled set of accounts to straighten and unravel, he was the man of all others selected to perform the work, and the more complicated the affair, the more acceptable to him; and what was very remarkable, he usually settled difficulties of this nature to the satisfaction of all concerned. From the integrity of his character and his acknowledged uprightness of conduct, he was often called upon to administer upon extensive and complicated estates, and with the most undeviating honesty, disposed of the several interests, not only agreeable to the laws of the land, but to the admiration of all parties. As a business man, in all of his transactions he was of the most uncorrupt and approved integrity; and during a great part of his life, was extensively engaged in those multiform transactions, which test the character and give its true image to the world. No man can rise up and say, that he ever practiced deception or fraud, or sought to turn

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For a period lage, and during its growth an general welfare tions to every borious person good. There him a debt of ertions made i always found casions. The viser—the dist Manlius Acad logical semina mon praise to trustee of the Manlius Acad tee of Auburn exhibits the in the confidence that he was at each grade in

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the necessities of others to his own advantage. This trait of his character was understood wherever he was known. It secured for him the confidence of all; and it is but justice to his character to say, *that* confidence was never abused. His highest aim was to the utmost of his power to do what was right between man and man. It is no extravagant praise to say of him, that as a business man, he was not excelled; but it was not in this sphere alone, that his talents and character shone most conspicuous.

For a period of forty years, he was a resident of Manlius Village, and during all that time, he was strictly identified with its growth and various improvements. His interest in the general welfare was shown by his liberal pecuniary contributions to every worthy object, and he was unsparing of his laborious personal exertions to the accomplishment of the public good. There is not a religious society in the village, but owes him a debt of lasting gratitude, for sacrifices and personal exertions made in their behalf. In him the cause of education always found a tried friend and ready supporter, upon all occasions. The Sunday school found in him a teacher and adviser—the district school, a promoter and active supporter—Manlius Academy, a founder and a friend—colleges and theological seminaries, an admirer and patron; and it is no common praise to say, that at the time of his decease, he was a trustee of the district school where he resided, a trustee of Manlius Academy, a trustee of Hamilton College, and a trustee of Auburn Theological Seminary; a circumstance which exhibits the interest he took in the cause of education, and the confidence placed in him by others. It is remarkable that he was at the same time a trustee of an institution of each grade in our educational system.

He was a man of the most untiring industry and energy of purpose. Industry with him was a confirmed habit—a necessity of his nature, and no man ever practiced a more strict economy of time, or turned it to better account. During his evenings and leisure moments, he drew around him his family, and engaged in the business of teaching or study; and it was at



intervals of leisure, in the bosom of his family, surrounded by his sons, that he stored his mind with a tolerable knowledge of the Latin, Greek and French languages, and those higher branches of English education of which he had not gained a knowledge at an earlier period of life. In fact, every moment of time was employed, about something useful; hence he became, without the aid of schools, a man of varied knowledge, and although engaged in extensive business, he found time to store his mind with the treasures of ancient and modern literature and science. Distinguished by superior gifts of mind—by a ready and retentive memory—by strength and penetration of intellect, he would almost at a glance, master the most abstruse subjects, with the readiness of an accomplished scholar, and often surprise the professed philosopher, or divine, or lawyer, or scholar, with his familiar knowledge, in their exclusive departments. In regard to these qualities and acquirements, he was a shining example to the youth who survive him, as illustrative of what may be accomplished by application and industry, not only in the common affairs of life, but in those higher employments of literature and science, which elevate individual worth, and tend to exalt and magnify mankind.

In regard to his religious views, he was liberal and generous in his feelings towards Christians of all denominations, and respected the character more than the name. Although a living member of the Presbyterian Church, his mind was fixed upon doing good to all men, without regard to sects or creeds, and he cherished a far higher and stronger regard for the essential doctrines and duties of Christianity, than for professions and names. He rejoiced in the prosperity of all denominations; yea, the whole human race. All worthy benevolent enterprises found in him a firm friend and ready patron. Bible societies, tract societies, missionary societies, and educational societies, were largely indebted to him for his efficient and liberal support.

While he was liberal to others, he was frugal in regard to personal gratifications, and a prominent trait in his character

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was self-denial, and few men with his means at command, and so liberal for the comfort of others, expended so little for the meat that perisheth. Few men had as strict and consistent a regard for the Sabbath and holy institutions, as he had. Always a regular attendant upon public worship himself, his example was followed by those under his influence.

Mr. Smith, from his ability and eminent qualifications, was often selected for important offices and trusts. In 1814, he was selected as one of the Trustees of the public lot of the town of Manlius, and as such assisted in effecting its original survey and sale. At this time the town lot was in a most deplorable state, and to his unwearied exertions is owing our present flourishing town school fund, arising from the sale of the lot. Although an adherent to the political party which was usually in the minority in the town of Manlius, he was often chosen Supervisor in opposition to the wishes of some of his more numerous political opponents.

In 1824, he was elected one of the Presidential Electors, and as such, cast his vote for John Quincy Adams. He was a member of the State Legislature in the years 1838, 1839, 1840, and was associated with Victory Birdseye, Phares Gould, James R. Lawrence, and James L. Voorhees, of our county.

In 1838, he was placed on the Committee on Claims. This was considered the most arduous committee in the House. Mr. Smith was charged with the laboring oar, and during all the session was incessant in his labors, and contributed materially in lessening the number of canal claims, which had not been previously disposed of. He was also at this session appointed one of the Committee on Prisons and Penitentiaries, which Committee visited the State Prisons and Penitentiaries throughout the State, and suggested many valuable reforms, which were adopted. In 1839, he was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Claims. The business of the Committee this year, was uncommonly arduous. Claims were still pressing for adjustment, the Committee were overrun with applicants, and it required no common share of discrimination, to do justice to the State and to the claimants. In 1840, he

was on the select Committee for the extension of time for the collection of taxes. He was also again Chairman of the Committee on Claims. He was also on the Committee on the internal affairs of towns and counties. He was also on several select committees, on all of which he was actively engaged, and bore, in all their transactions, a conspicuous part.

Throughout his long and active life, wherever he was found, there was found a leading spirit. He was an example of Christian morality, zealous in the cause of benevolence and philanthropy, compassionate to those in affliction, and especially to the widow and the fatherless, who felt that they had abundant cause to mourn the loss of one who had ever been unwearied in their care. He was distinguished for his enterprise and liberality of character, and for his devotedness to the public good. He was active and useful to the last, and although for two or three years, he felt that his bodily powers were giving way, and yielding to the insidious encroachments of age and disease, he labored on, so long as his strength would permit, and it was not till he was prostrate upon his bed, that he released himself from active exertion. For several weeks previous to his death, he was unable to transact business, but at length rallied and resolved to visit physicians abroad. He went to New Haven, his disease proved obstinate, and he expired in that city on the 12th of November, 1846, aged sixty-two—full of years and full of honors. The news was communicated, by telegraph, to Syracuse, and from there directly to Manlius by express. The entire community was overwhelmed by the intelligence. It was a time of general mourning. The Trustees of the village, of which board he was a member, and the Trustees of Manlius Academy held meetings, and passed appropriate resolutions of condolence and sorrow, and the village, *en masse*, poured out their hearts in a public meeting, expressive of their sympathies and grief. A large committee was appointed to escort the remains from the rail-road, which was amply responded to, and hundreds availed themselves of this opportunity to express their regard and respect for the distinguished dead. As the procession approached the vil-

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lage, in the darkness of the night, hundreds of lights in the hands of anxious expectants, lined the walks, and were seen moving around with silent and mournful solemnity, and all fell into the procession, presenting a scene which can never be forgotten by those who witnessed its peculiar effect. On Sunday the corpse was buried; the procession formed amidst a drenching rain, and a covering of umbrellas was made almost without interruption, from his late dwelling house to the Episcopal Church, where the funeral services were held, after which his remains were conveyed to the tomb, amidst the sorrows and tears of an entire community. His bright example will long live in the minds of those who knew him.

From the scenes of his useful labors, from all the tender ties of consanguinity, he has passed away. The clods of the valley cover all of him that was mortal, and his remains are the silent tenants of the tomb. Although returning springs may give fresh bloom to his memory, no earthly summer can rekindle, with genial warmth, the vital spark. A heavenly season will impart to them a living principle, and the flower which Time destroyed, shall flourish in unfading beauty throughout Eternity.

NICHOLAS P. RANDALL.—The subject of this sketch, was born at Stonington, Connecticut, July 25th, 1779.

At the age fifteen, he resolved upon securing the benefits of a thorough education. His father not being in possession of a fortune sufficient for securing so valuable a blessing to a numerous family, he was by fortuitous circumstances, thrown entirely upon his own resources. By perseverance, application and industry, he secured the means of acquiring a complete classical education by his personal efforts, and finally graduated with distinguished honor, at Yale College, in the class of 1803.

Directly after the completion of his classical course, he entered the law office of Messrs. Hotchkiss & Simons, at Clinton, Oneida County, where he continued until his professional studies were concluded, when he was admitted to the Bar. In 1807, he located at New Hartford, Oneida County, opened



a law office and there continued the practice, till sometime in 1811, when he removed to Manlius village and entered into partnership with James O. Wattles, Esq., which partnership, after a short period was dissolved.

From his activity of mind, acute legal penetration, profound investigation and untiring devotion to the interests of his clients, he soon became distinguished as a lawyer, which drew to his office many of the most important causes which were to be tried in the courts of the county, and in the Supreme Court, and Court of Chancery, of the State of New-York, and perhaps no one labored with more assiduity, or was more successful, in maintaining the causes in which he was retained as counsel. Endowed by nature, with mental powers of a high order, which were eminently improved by study, industry and perseverance, he abhorred all deceit and chicanery in business matters, incident to a lower order of minds, and was entirely above the low ambition of securing to himself a great number of clients, by misrepresentation or artifice. His ambition, (if we may be allowed the expression,) was grounded in integrity, and in a desire to excel in his profession. Mr. Randall excelled in that most exalted of all qualities—sound, sterling common sense, which, with his acknowledged candor and urbanity, gave him an uncommon influence with the Bench and with juries; which few men, however much they might have surpassed him in fluency of speech or oratorical arts, attained.

The character of Mr. Randall's genius, was original. He acted and thought for himself. With a mind, independent and decisive he copied after no man, and it is no mean proof of the strength and solidity of his judgment, that his counsel was so often sought, and received with so much deference, and his professional celebrity stood so high. As he had ability to think, so had he also, the moral courage to follow the convictions of his own mind. But these faculties in a man actively engaged in the business of life, failed not to bring him into collision with many, who had not the judgement or discrimination to appreciate his motives, or honestly enough

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to commend his decided course. These transcendent principles, however, could not fail to impart to himself, and his immediate friends, the highest sources of enjoyment, and he often had the satisfaction of receiving the gratulations of those who from prejudice or ignorance, made erroneous estimates of his motives.

The arduous duties of his profession, did not prevent his engaging in agricultural pursuits. In his youth, he had been inured to the labors of a farm, and in after years, from choice, entered into both the theoretical and practical operations of agriculture, with all the zeal and ardor of one depending entirely upon its results, for profit and support. His farm, though small, was a pattern of neatness, order and thrift, and none knew better or practiced more perfectly the principles of this science; presenting an example in the highest degree encouraging to useful industry. His garden was stored with trees of choicest fruit, planted by his own hand, and the sweetest flowers shed their fragrant odors around his dwelling, nurtured by his care.

Mr. Randall was always among the foremost in aiding and advancing the cause of education, in all its various branches, and was active in effecting the incorporation of Manlius Academy, and was one of its principal founders.

In private life, Mr. Randall was social, amiable and agreeable, and although the requirements of business occupied much of his time, there were few men who could, with more dignity and grace, contribute to the refined enjoyments of the social circle, or afford more rational and solid information, upon the varied subjects with which he was familiar. He was endowed with a vein of pleasantry, which occasionally evinced itself in the humorous, yet never detracted from his dignity. His friends always perfectly at ease with him, were never known to treat him with degrading familiarity. Their regard and respect for him equally forbade it. His conversation was stately, instructive and delightful; his deportment dignified and gentlemanly, and his character without reproach.

In his Christian character, he was remarkable for his zeal, pru-

dence and fidelity. He took not his creed upon trust. He weighed the claims of Revelation, and the various branches of the Christian family; and in the preference which he gave to the communion of his adoption, he acted upon the sober dictates of an enlightened judgment and an honest heart. Hence, as might have been expected, he continued without wavering, steadfast unto the end.

For many years, he filled the stations of vestryman and warden of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Manlius, the latter of which he held at the time of his death. His religious experience, in view of his approaching dissolution, partook of the same rational nature. Harrassed by no fears without, and an approving conscience within, he calmly resigned his soul to the hands of his Maker, without any anxiety as to the issue.

After a long and tedious illness, which he bore with truly Christian fortitude, he died at his residence, in Manlius Village, on the 7th of March, 1836, in the fifty-seventh year of his age. The mournful intelligence was every where received with feelings of sorrow and regret. The Bar of Onondaga County, called a meeting, and passed the following resolutions of condolence and respect:

"At a meeting of the members of the Bar of the county of Onondaga, held at the Court-House, in the village of Syracuse, on the 29th day of March, A. D. 1836, for the purpose of paying a tribute of respect to the memory of Nicholas P. Randall, Esq., one of the members of said Bar, recently deceased, the Hon. Daniel Moseley, Judge of the Seventh Circuit, was called to the Chair, assisted by their Honors, John Watson, George Petit and Otis Bigelow, Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said county, and J. G. Forbes, Esq., was appointed Secretary.

James R. Lawrence, Esq., from a Committee appointed by the Chair, consisting of Messrs. Lawrence, Watson, Birdseye and Jewett, reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

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county of Onondaga, have received, with painful emotions, information of the death of Nicholas P. Randall, Esq., for many years a prominent member of the Bar of this county.

Resolved, That the high legal and scientific attainments, and the uniform fidelity and ability which Mr. Randall devoted to the maintenance and protection of the rights and interests of his clients, and to the elucidation of law and equity, have deservedly gained for him a high standing, in a useful and honorable profession; and while we deplore his death as a public loss, we sympathize with his family and friends, that they have been called upon to part with one long endeared to them, not only by eminent public usefulness, but by high moral qualities, and an amiable domestic character.

Resolved, That these resolutions be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of this meeting—that by permission they be entered upon the minutes of the Court, and a copy be transmitted by his Honor, the Circuit Judge, to the family of the deceased, and also that they be published in the newspapers of the county.

DANIEL MOSELEY, Chairman.

J. G. FORBES, Secretary."

The loss of so distinguished a man, necessarily created deep sensations in the community in which he had lived, and to whom he had become endeared.

The house of mourning was surrounded by his neighbors and numerous friends, who could scarcely credit the reality of his death. The funeral obsequies were prepared, and his remains conveyed to the tomb, amid all the solemnities that respond to the deepest sorrow, with which every heart was afflicted by this dispensation of Providence. His career has left us a splendid and animating example, which points the way to usefulness and fame, and shows how great are the acquirements which well directed perseverance and industry are able to achieve, and what honors and rewards are the happy results.

MANLIUS.—The first white settler within the township of Manlius, was Mr. Benjamin Morehouse, in 1789; and according to the best information that can be obtained, the first in

the present town of Manlius, was Mr. David Tripp, who came here with his family from Ballston, Saratoga County, in 1790. He lived in a log house, about a mile north-west from Manlius Village, not far from where Mr. Salmon Sherwood now resides. Far from the abode of any white man, it was with the greatest difficulty he could procure a sufficiency for subsistence till he could raise it from the soil by his own labor. At one time it is said, the only article of food which his family had for three months, excepting wild roots and milk, was a bushel of corn which he procured at Herkimer, and brought home on his back. The father of David Tripp died at his house in the spring of 1792, and was buried on the rising ground west of Mr. Samuel Gregory's barn. This was undoubtedly the first death of a white person within the township of Manlius.

The next settler was Mr. Conrad Lour, who located near Mr. Tripp, and erected the first frame house in town, in 1792. He brought the floor boards from Palatine, and other boards from Danforth's mill. Not having a sufficient quantity of nails, his son was sent to Oriskany, thirty-three miles, after some, and returned with forty-six pounds on his back. The house then erected, constitutes part of the dwelling now occupied by Salmon Sherwood.

Mr. Caleb Pratt came to the town of Manlius in 1793, and when living remarked, that the inhabitants were so destitute of provisions and the common necessities of life, that the lank, lean sided, long necked mice, would come peeping into the crevices of the log houses, and shed tears of sorrow at the poverty of the inmates, and retire without finding a crumb to satisfy their longing appetites.

Capt. Joseph Williams came to Manlius in 1795, from Connecticut. He cut, cleared and fenced, five acres of land the first summer entirely alone. He bought his land at twenty shillings per acre. The next year he removed his family on a sled, with a yoke of oxen, and was eight days coming from Galway, Saratoga County, one hundred and twenty miles. He had erected a rude cottage beforehand. When he arrived, he had but fifty cents cash. Wheat was worth three dollars and

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a half per bushel, corn one dollar and a half, and common calico seventy-five cents per yard. But industry and frugality soon increased the domestic store; the wants of the family were not only supplied, but an abundance was raised to spare to the needy settlers as they arrived, and plenty crowned their board. Mr. Williams lived long to enjoy the fruits of his labor and toil.

Colonel Elijah Phillips, at an early day, occupied the farm now owned by Mr. Peter R. Reed, and held a distinguished position among the early pioneers of the county.

Mr. Wm. Ward settled on lot ninety-seven, in the spring of 1793, and he was sole owner and proprietor of that lot in 1794; and that year he was appointed a Justice of the Peace. He erected grist and saw mills on the Limestone Creek. This was the first grist mill built in the town of Manlius, as now organized. A saw mill was built earlier, at the old mills. Joseph Woodward was the master builder of Ward's mills. At an early day, before dams impeded the streams, salmon, salmon-trout and pickerel were very plentiful. The Limestone Creek was a favorite resort for them, and many instances like the following, are still related with great glee by the early settlers. To give an idea with what facility they were taken, as we have been informed, it was not unfrequent to run them into shoal water, and dispatch them with clubs. One of the Mrs. Tripps, while assisting her husband in making hay near the creek, struck her pitchfork through a very large salmon, and held him fast till her husband came to her aid and killed it with a stone. A man in the employ of Mr. Wm. Ward, on going to the creek one morning to wash, saw a large salmon floundering in shoal water, and dispatched him with a club. Col. John Sprague, now of Fayetteville, then a youth, on a walk from his residence in Pompey, on an errand to Manlius Village, drove a shoal of salmon into a hastily constructed enclosure, and secured a back-load of them with his hands, and carried them home in triumph.

Manlius was at first number seven of the Military Townships. At the organization of the county, in 1794, the town

of Manlius was bounded north by the township of Cicero; east by the Oneida Reservation; south by Pompey, and west by Onondaga Creek, Lake and River, including all the Onondaga and Salt Springs Reservations, north of the old Genesee road, and east of Onondaga Creek, comprehending all the present towns of Manlius, De Witt, part of Onondaga, and part of Salina. It was finally reduced to its present territorial limits in 1835. Let it here be observed, that the original townships were intended to contain each one hundred lots, and each lot at least six hundred acres of land. But by an error in the calculations of the Surveyor General, the township of Cicero, as originally laid out, contained but ninety-nine lots, which error was not detected till the commissioners had commenced the drawing. It so happened that lot one hundred, township of Cicero, was drawn by a soldier, and lot number seven, township of Manlius, adjoining ninety-nine, Cicero, was drawn for the Literature Fund. In order to do the soldier justice, lot number seven, Manlius, was transferred and registered as lot one hundred, Cicero. By this maneuver,

Manlius was shorn of one lot of its territory, and Literature of so much of its fund, but the soldier's land was saved to him. The first town meeting was held at the tavern of Benjamin Morehouse, in the town of Manlius, 1st of April, 1794. Although scattering families had located in different parts of the town during 1791-92 and '93, it was not till the following years that Manlius acquired a name abroad, and settlers looked towards it as a suitable and desirable place of residence. The first and earliest inhabitants of this town were mostly from New England, though many respectable families came here from the Mohawk River. A reference to the first town meeting will serve to show who most of the principal inhabitants of the town were at that time.

At the meeting held at Benjamin Morehouse's tavern for the first election of town officers, Cyrus Kinne, Esq., was chosen Chairman, and Levi Jerome, Secretary. It was resolved to choose the Supervisor and Town Clerk by ballot, and the remaining officers by holding up the right hand.

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The ballots being handed in, the Chairman declared Comfort Tyler duly elected supervisor, and Levi Jerome Town Clerk. There were but forty-two voters present at this meeting. Overseers of the Poor, were David Williams and Benjamin Morehouse; Commissioners of Roads, Charles Merriam, Elijah Phillips and Ryal Bingham; Assessors, Reuben Patterson, Ichabod Lathrop, Isaac Van Vleck, William Ward and Timothy Teall; Constables and Collectors, Caleb Pratt and David Baker; Overseers of Roads, Libbeus Foster, William Ward, Ichabod Lathrop, Reuben Patterson, Cyrus Kinne, Ryal Bingham, Jeremiah Jackson, Gershom Breed and Lemuel Hall; Fence Viewers, Aaron Wood, Elijah Phillips, John Danforth, Jeremiah Jackson. At this meeting, a bounty of four pounds was ordered for any person presenting to the Supervisor of the town, the scalp of a full grown wolf, and thirty shillings for the scalp of one under one year old. At this early day, with neighbors from three to five miles apart, hogs running at large were considered troublesome, and the inhabitants passed a good old New-England resolution in the following words: "that no hog shall go at large without a stout ring in his nose, and a yoke about his neck, extending above the depth of his neck, and half the depth below."

The first common school commissioners for the town, were chosen in 1797, and Charles Moseley, Daniel Campbell and Isaac Van Vleck, took upon them the charge of regulating common schools. A special committee was chosen to co-operate with the commissioners, and were directed to proceed to a division of the town into school districts. Gershom Breed, Elijah Phillips, Jeremiah Jackson, and Caleb Pratt, were said committee. No regular proceedings of these commissioners or committeemen is to be found on record; and the first organization of school districts was very imperfectly made in the years 1810 and 1811. They have since, in 1835, been more systematically organized.

In 1798, a vote was taken at the annual town meeting, to ascertain the propriety of having the Gospel and School lot settled. Lot seventy-four, Manlius, had been set apart by the



Surveyor General, for Gospel and School purposes. The vote was decided affirmatively. In 1800, John Sweeting, Supervisor, and Timothy Teall, Town Clerk, were directed to take charge of the town lot. From this time till 1810, the public lot was most shamefully pillaged and plundered, and was entirely unproductive. Notwithstanding all that could possibly be done by the Trustees, it was found next to impossible to collect rents; and finally the occupants began to think themselves the real owners. At the time of its sale, some three hundred acres had been stript of its timber and left without fence, or the means and materials of which to make one, notwithstanding pine, oak and elm timber enough had been wasted to build a town. In 1811, Abijah Yelverton was chosen Commissioner of the public lot, who, with the Supervisor and Town Clerk, were directed to make such discretionary arrangements for its preservation and safety as they should see fit. It was leased or farmed out for three or four years, and finally was sold by the town, May, 2d, 1814, for twelve thousand one hundred and fourteen dollars forty-two cents. When De Witt was set off from Manlius, the school fund was divided, and Manlius received for its share, seven thousand seven hundred and fifty-two dollars forty-two cents. The annual income of this fund, which is five hundred and forty-two dollars and sixty-seven cents, is annually divided among the districts within the present town of Manlius.

MANLIUS VILLAGE.—Without doubt, Mr. John A. Shaeffer was the first settler in Manlius Village. He commenced his residence here in 1792, built a log house, very near where the Episcopal church now stands. He, like many other of the early settlers of this county, soon after opened a tavern and sold a few goods, to satisfy the very limited wants of the scattered inhabitants. In the year 1794, a son was born to Mrs. Shaeffer, which was undoubtedly the first birth in the village. He was named Baron Steuben, in honor of the famous General of that name, who about this time, spent a night at the house of Mr. Shaeffer, on his way out to Salt Point, with Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer and Gen. Wm.

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North. The circumstances of this visit have been related to the author as follows :

On the return of the party from Salt Point, whither they had been to select a site for a block house ; they spent the night at the house of John A. Shaeffer, Esq., "inn keeper," at Manlius. The guests were considerably fatigued with their journey, and the labors of their important trust, and retired early to rest. During the night, there seemed to be an unusual stir about the house, and as the hour of midnight approached, it still increased, and before morning, transpired one of those unpostponable events incident to all prosperous and increasing families. The Baron was greatly annoyed during the night, so that he scarcely slept a wink. The frequent shutting of doors, continual tramping of busy feet, and hushed sounds of female voices, which were greatly magnified by the Baron's nervousness and the importance of progressing events, kept his mind in a continual tumult.

The house was built of logs, only one story high, with two rooms below ; the chamber being the whole size of the house, with only loose boards for a floor, and accessible by no other means than a ladder. This chamber was occupied by the distinguished guests of Mr. Shaeffer. The companions of the hero of this tale slept soundly, but not so the Baron. He often turned himself on his bed of straw, seeking rest and finding none, continually wondering what on earth could excite such wonderful commotion, and he finally worked himself into an almost uncontrollable passion, which could scarcely be restrained till morning. On the earliest approach of light, the Baron rose, still in his rage, vowing vengeance on all below. He approached the redoubtable landlord in not the most agreeable humor, saying, "your house is full of gossips and goblins, sir ; I hav'n't slept a wink all the blessed night ; you have a pack of dogs about you noisy enough to deafen one. Sir, I repeat ; your house is full of gossips and goblins. Sir, your house isn't fit to stable swine. Give us breakfast, let us be off, and we'll not trouble you again." The Baron's rage was at its height. Mine host was perfectly

dumb-founded before his enraged and angry guest, and dared not lift his head, or hint the cause of the disturbance during the night. But soon, to give relief to his troubled mind, a woman approached the angry Baron, who was still breathing forth threatenings and storm, bearing in her arms an infant, who had not yet witnessed the setting of a single sun, saying, "here, Sir Baron, is the cause of all the trouble and noise last night." The gallant old soldier instantly felt the impropriety of his conduct, his habitual good humor was instantly restored, his accustomed gallantry prompted him at once handsomely to apologize, at the same time begging ten thousand pardons of those around him. He tendered his most hearty congratulations to Mr. Shaeffer and his wife, and offered to bestow his own name on the new visitant, which offer was accepted, and forthwith the Baron drew a deed of gift for two hundred and fifty acres of land, from his domain in Oneida, and after breakfast, with his friends, went on his way rejoicing.

Mr. Charles Mulholland, was probably the next settler after Mr. Shaeffer. He lived first in a log house very near Mr. Ewer's present residence. Mr. Mulholland owned a considerable share of lot ninety-eight, and a Mr. Leonard came in possession of the greater part of lot eighty-seven, which was occupied by Aaron Wood, Esq. The south-east corner of lot eighty-six was occupied by Mr. Cunningham, who lived a little east of the late Sumner Whitney's residence. William Ward, owned the whole of lot ninety-seven, and resided near Perry's mill. These four lots, let it be observed, corner in the village of Manlius, in the house now occupied by Mrs. Perry, opposite and south of Charles Smith's store. Afterwards, Mr. Jabez Cobb, came in possession of one hundred and fifty acres of land in the south-west corner of lot eighty-seven, and kept the tavern after Mr. Shaeffer for a number of years. Charles Mosely came to Manlius, in 1796, purchased of Mr. Cobb, in 1802 or 1803, and sold a great part of the village lots on Pleasant and Seneca streets, east of the line of the original lot. The first permanent store opened in Manlius Village, was kept by a Mr. Dickout, in 1795, in the first frame

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building erected in the village. It stood about where the ditch is now, in front of the south-east corner of Charles Smith's store. Ebenezer Calkins sold goods from a temporary building, near the Limestone Factory boarding house. He traded principally with the Indians. Samuel Edwards kept the first school in the village, in Mr. Calkins' shop. The first school house was built of logs, in 1798, and stood just north of Midlar's mill. The first name given to the settlement was Liberty Square, by Charles Mulholland, in 1800 or 1801; it was at the raising of Mr. McLaren's barn. After the frame was up, those who assisted at the raising, paraded themselves on the front plate, named the village Liberty Square, gave three hearty cheers, and threw off a corked bottle of spirits. This is what, in those days, was called the christening of a place or building. There were but six dwellings here, at that time, one store and one tavern. The name Liberty Square, was retained but a short time, and soon became more generally known by the name of Manlius Square. The distinguished Ornithologist, Alexander Wilson, in his journal of a tour through western New-York, in November, 1804, mentions having spent a miserable night at a village called Manlius Square, of about thirty houses. There, he says, he was obliged to sing nearly the whole night, to drown the melancholy groans of his disconsolate companion, who could scarcely make his way through the snow and mud. He spent a day here, collecting specimens of birds, and other information. The annual meetings of the town of Manlius, after Onondaga was set off, were held at the house of John Delany, in Manlius Village, for three years, and afterwards, at the house of Cyrus Kinne, at the Corners, now Fayetteville.

Alvan Marsh settled here as a lawyer, in 1798, and Doct. Sturtevant, as a physician, in 1796. The next lawyers after Mr. Marsh, were R. R. Phelps, Abijah Yelverton, James O. Wattles, N. P. Randall, S. L. Edwards and others. Physicians, James Jackson and Walter Colton, who all became residents from 1802 to 1806; afterwards, H. L. Granger, Wm.

Taylor, H. B. Moore. Dr. Deodatus Clark resided in Manlius, in 1812.

Sylvenus Tousley, commenced blacksmithing in 1800, and the Mullhollands were considered the principal land holders in the neighborhood. Merritt Clark and Moses Johnson, were merchants here, in 1806; and Azariah Smith, in 1807, commenced the mercantile business, in company with John Meeker, in the building now occupied by E. E. May as a dwelling. Mr. Meeker was an extensive trader at that time, having stores in different sections of the country, was then considered both prudent and sagacious, and the greatest merchant in western New-York. Mr. Meeker subsequently carried on a flourishing business in the old block, formerly standing a little west of the Episcopal church. Messrs. James & Cummings commenced trading in the building now occupied by Elijah Tryon, in 1805, and pursued a lucrative business for several years. The late Wm. Malcolm, of Syracuse, was a clerk to them. This building was erected by Moses Johnson. Previous to 1806, Messrs. Ellis, Livingston, McDougald, McLaren and Dennison, were merchants on a small scale, in addition to those already before mentioned, and a man by the name of John Smith, kept a small assortment of wares about this time. The formidable name of John Smith was rather more common then than now. Manlius Village and vicinity, could boast of no less than four, and they were distinguished by the appellations of long John, blind John, cross John and John stout.

Mr. Johnson built the Red Mills in 1804, which were then considered a stupendous work. His interest in the mills and other property passed into the hands of Mr. William Gardner, well known to many of our citizens as Deacon Gardner, father of the late Lieutenant Governor, and Mrs. Elijah Rhoades. He prosecuted business on an extensive scale, purchased a patent right for the manufacturing of nails, and erected a nail factory at considerable cost. He was afterwards succeeded by his sons, William and Charles.

Luther Bingham was appointed Post Master for Manlius in 1800; he kept the office at his house, which stood on the ground

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now occupied by Lyman Spear. He was succeeded by Robert Wilson\* in 1803, who kept the office for a number of years in the house which once stood where the widow Williams now lives. Mr. Wilson was succeeded by Doctor Hezekiah L. Granger, Nathan Williams, D. B. Bickford, Joseph Rhoades and John Grinnell, Esqrs.

The first knowledge we have of any thing like a congregation of Episcopalians in this vicinity, is in the years 1798-99, &c., at which time the families of Messrs. David Green, John Roberts, Jonathan Hurd, — Ward, — Dodge and others, residents of the townships of Pompey and Manlius, used to assemble at each others dwellings and conduct worship after the Episcopal manner. The Rev. Mr. Nash first preached twice as an Episcopalian clergyman at a private house (David Hibbard's) in Pompey.

Rev. Davenport Phelps came on directly after, a Missionary, and often preached at Manlius, Eagle Village, Morehouse's Flats, and Onondaga, 1802, 1803, 1804, and 1806. In January, 1804, the Episcopal Church was at first organized under the Rev. Davenport Phelps, Missionary. Rev. A. G. Baldwin, Missionary, 1809, Rev. Parker Adams, first Rector 1810, Rev. William A. Clark, 1811; church building erected 1813, since which the following clergy have had charge over it: Rev. Messrs. Clark, Pardee, Bulkley, Dyer, Hickox, Selkrig, Holister, Pound, Appleton, Davis, Pise, and Gay.

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\* During the war of the Revolution, Robert Wilson accompanied his uncle, Captain Gregg, to Fort Schuyler, and was desirous of accompanying him at the time he was shot and scalped, but on account of his youth, (only thirteen years of age) and the apparent danger, was not permitted. He was appointed an ensign at the age of eighteen, and soon after received a lieutenant's commission, and served through the war—was at the taking of Cornwallis, and was ordered to superintend the receiving of the British standards, forty-eight in number. When the officers of the British army were drawn up to present their colors, as many American sergeants were directed to secure them. The British officers refused to deliver them into the hands of non-commissioned officers, and Colonel Hamilton, seeing the confusion and delay, ordered Lieutenant Wilson to receive them and pass them to the hands of the sergeants, which he did by passing between the two ranks from one end to the other, to the satisfaction of all. (Wilson's own relation to E. W. Clarke.)

Several Congregational, Presbyterian and Baptist societies were organized in the town of Manlius, during the years 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802 and 1803 under the Rev. Hugh Wallace, Rev. Seth Williston, and Elders Campbell and Breed. The citizens of Manlius Village during those years, many of them attended meeting at the "Old Mills." The Presbyterian Society in the village was organized at an early day, and erected their house of worship in 1816.

Their ministers have been Rev. Messrs. Davenport, Johnson, Reed, Olds, Hopkins, Woodruff, Cushman, Kellogg, Ingersoll, Bates, Smith, Benedict, Slocum, Platt and Hastings. Baptist Society erected their house of worship 1827. Clergy, Rev. Messrs. Morton, Bellamy, McCarthy, Spalding, Smith.

The Methodist ministers in this place have been numerous, and subject to annual and biennial change, are not named.

The first wedding in the present town of Manlius, and in the village of Manlius, was Mr. Nicholas Phillips to Miss Caty Garlock, January 14, 1793. They were married by Moses De Witt, Esq.

FAYETTEVILLE.—Joshua Knowlton and Origen Eaton came here in 1791, and made some clearing. Cyrus Kinne, Esq., settled here the year following. Mr. Kinne was the first blacksmith who carried on the business in the township, and for several years was quite a distinguished man.

In 1801, Carey Coats opened a tavern, and when he applied for a license to the Board of Excise, stated upon oath, that he had two spare beds, and stable room for two span of horses or two yoke of oxen. A license was rather reluctantly granted him. But it was afterwards positively ascertained that he had not beds sufficient comfortably to lodge even his own family. The presiding officer of the Board of Excise, remonstrated with the new tavern keeper on the impropriety of his conduct. He asserted that he had told nothing but the truth, and referred the officer to his father-in-law, who said he was sure his son-in-law had two spare beds, for on the morning on which he applied for a license, he saw him make two

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beds in his garden, and they must be spare, as he could not borrow seed in the neighborhood to sow them.

John Delamater opened a store at this place in 1802. Cyrus Kinne, Esq., built the first frame house in 1804. The settlement was for a long time called the Corners, or Manlius Four Corners, but after a Post Office was established, it received the name of Fayetteville, and was extensively known for several years to the traveling public as the village of four taverns, but no meeting house.

The first scattering settlers of this neighborhood were of the Baptist denomination. A Church of this Society was formed as early as 1800. Rev. Father Campbell was one of the first Baptist ministers who officiated here. Rev. Elder Breed was also a devoted laborer on this ground. The usual place for religious meetings was the school-house, in what is commonly called the Upper District. The Presbyterian was the first house of worship, erected in the year 1829, by the combined efforts of all. The session-room was first finished and used for religious purposes by all denominations. The Presbyterian house of worship was dedicated in the winter of 1830, and admitted into the Presbytery the same year, with the name and title of the "Presbyterian Church at Fayetteville. The Rev. Mr. Cushman, of Manlius, was untiring in his efforts to build up the Society in this place, usually officiating on Sunday evenings. The same room was frequently occupied by Elder Breed, who at an earlier day had preached stately at the school-house.

The Methodist Society also held their meetings at the school-house, and at the session-room of the Presbyterian house. The several houses of worship, as they now exist, were erected and completed during the years from 1829 to '33, except the Methodist Episcopal Society, which was built in 1836, in exchange for the building first erected by them, and subsequently sold to the Trustees of the Academy.

The Protestant Episcopal Church was organized in the year 1830; a building erected in 1831, and consecrated in 1832. Settled Clergymen have been, Rev. Messrs. Northrup, Engle,



Windsor, Fenner, Bartlett, Hickox, Pise. These four religious denominations are very well sustained.

A work of considerable magnitude has been commenced by the citizens of Fayetteville, and is nearly completed, which, when finished, may be the means of making that village a large manufacturing town. A dike or canal has been formed to receive all the water flowing in the Limestone Creek. It commences at Hall's mill, and leads to the village. A reservoir surrounding a beautiful artificial island, has been excavated sufficient to contain a large body of water, near and above the projected mill sites. A small but very durable stream, called the Bishop Brook, has been turned from its natural channel, and led into the village by means of logs of large bore, which will yield a power capable of turning machinery of considerable magnitude.

Fayetteville, for many years, has been an excellent location for the purchase of grain, particularly barley. In former years it was not excelled by any place in the State in the first purchase of that staple article. For the last two or three years there has been some falling off, owing to the partial failure of the crop in this and the adjacent towns.

SATAN'S KINGDOM—once eminently distinguished for the belligerent, litigious and pugnacious character of its inhabitants, took its then very significant name from a man who was continually at variance with his neighbors. After a long course of law proceedings with another neighbor, in which both had the worst of the case, one declared he would be king of the country. The other told him he was no more fit for a king to reign over that place, than Satan himself. The bystanders spontaneously declared the first, King Satan, and the settlement, from this time forward, was called Satan's Kingdom, which appellation it richly merited, and by which it was appropriately designated for a number of years. In 1814, the inhabitants called a meeting at the school-house, and resolved to change the name of Satan's Kingdom, to Pleasant Valley, and it was further resolved that the proceedings should be published in the *Manlius Times*, and that Mr. Smith Burton

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should be requested to accompany the same with a suitable poetic exposition of the reasons for changing the name. Accordingly the proceedings were published with the following verse :

"Since the King no longer sits on his Throne,  
We, his name no longer will own,  
But around the standard, we will rally,  
Of peace, and call the place Pleasant Valley."

KIRKVILLE.—The settlement at Kirkville was commenced with the building of the canal. Mr. Cunningham opened a tavern there, and others gradually clustered around. In 1822, Edward Kirkland, a son of the late Hon. Joseph Kirkland, of Utica, settled on a large farm half a mile north-east of this settlement, and in 1824, was appointed Post Master. The settlement and Post Office were named Kirkville, in honor of him. Mr. Kirkland built the basin at his own expense, on the heel path side of the canal, put up a large store, and did considerable business there for a time.

BRIDGEPORT.—Messrs. Isaac and John Delamater made a settlement at the Chittenango Rifts or Rapids, as the place was then called, in 1802. Judge John Knowles, John Adams, Esq., and others, settled in that neighborhood about the same time. There is a sudden fall in the Chittenango Creek here of about ten feet, which yields an immense water power, which is very little employed. It is a famous place for taking suckers and other fish, early in the spring, and from this circumstance has been denominated the sucker bank. It was once a great place for taking salmon. It was not uncommon to take them from the nets weighing from twelve to twenty-five pounds. Before bridges were erected they were taken as high up as the Chittenango Falls, twenty miles above the outlet. Schooners of two hundred tons have been built and launched for the lake trade at Bridgeport, previous to the building of the canal.

HARTSVILLE—received its name from a Mr. Hart, who made a purchase of the water power at that place in 1811. He contemplated erecting glass works, flowering mill, &c., but

finally sold to James A. Sherwood, who did not carry out the contemplated improvements.

**EAGLE VILLAGE.**—James Foster settled at this place on lot eighty-eight, in 1790, and directly opened a tavern, the first in the present town of Manlius. It was very early resorted to by others as a desirable place of residence, and once earnestly contested the palm for superiority with Manlius Village. Eagle Village could once boast of four physicians, three merchants, and two lawyers. Charles Mosely set up a store in 1793, where Giles Everson now lives. Elias Stilwell owned quite a large tract of land in the neighborhood at this time. A Mr. Staniford opened a tavern there soon after. Finally the store was abandoned, and Mr. Mosely traded awhile at Eagle Village, and eventually settled at Manlius Village, having spent a short time as clerk in Mr. Calkins' store near where the Limestone Factory now stands. Dr. Ward was the first settled physician in the present town of Manlius, and a Dr. Moore soon after. Dr. Smith Weed was then a very respectable physician, and had an extensive practice. Dr. Fisk and Dr. Washburn once did a respectable business, and resided here; and the facetious Dr. Jonas Fay once purchased a lot here with intent to reside upon it, but did not. Charles B. Bristol commenced trading here as a merchant in 1804, and did a very extensive business. During the war of 1812, he acted as a distributing commissary, built the stone distillery in 1809; put up the first threshing machine in town or county; kept the finest garden in the county; drove the best team of eight horses known on the road, and for five or six years was considered one of the first merchants in the county. Amos P. Granger first commenced business at Eagle Village. Mr. Walker opened a law office in 1804. Asa Rice, a lawyer, kept an office there. Hon. James R. Lawrence was a clerk to him. A Mr. Smith afterwards kept a law office here for a short time, and also a Mr. Townsend. Jared Ludington opened a shoe shop in 1800. Libbeus Foster opened a tavern in 1794, in the house now occupied by Gershom Sherwood. It soon became one of the most celebrated taverns in western

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New-York. It contained a grand masonic hall, a grand dancing hall, and many other things to correspond.

In 1811, the Eagle Village Library was incorporated; about two hundred and fifty volumes were purchased, and afterwards some additions were made. This is one of the oldest circulating libraries in the county, and probably contains as good a collection of rare and valuable standard works, considering its numbers, as can be found in the English language. It was here that the first school was kept in the town of Manlius, by Samuel Edwards, in James Foster's barn. He had eight shillings per quarter per scholar, and boarded among the inhabitants. At this place occurred one of the most singular weddings on record. It was upon a training day, first Monday in June, 1795. A company training was held at Foster's tavern. The company were paraded in the open yard in front of Foster's house, a hollow square was formed, within which the wedding party marched and stood, and Cyrus Kinne, Esq., united, in the bonds of holy wedlock, Mr. Billy McKee and Miss Jenny Mulholland. Considering the simplicity of the times, the rare occurrence of such an event, the *elevated position* of the high contracting parties, and the practices then prevalent on such occasions, we cannot but infer, that the witnesses and all present must have had a most splendid jollification.

OLD MILLS.—In 1792 or '93, Elijah Phillips leased the property known as the old mills, the common, &c., of a Mr. Hamilton of Albany, for the term of sixty years. In '93, Mr. Phillips, David Williams, Aaron Wood and Walter Worden, erected a saw mill here, the first built in the present town of Manlius. David Williams soon sold his share, one-fourth, to Phineas Stevens, for sixty acres of land. In 1796, Butler & Phillips erected a grist mill, a little above the bridge, the stones and gearing having been previously provided by Mr. Hamilton. Clothing works and an oil mill were put in operation by Deacon Dunham afterwards, and a Mr. Jones kept a small store there, and Wm. Warner another, in 1811.

The first newspaper printed in the county of Onondaga,

was entitled the "Derne Gazette," and was published by Abraham Romyen, in the village of Manlius. The first number was issued in the spring of 1806; but not receiving sufficient patronage and support, it was discontinued, after it had been published a little more than a year. The cause of the failure of the "Gazette" was mainly owing to the fact, that at the time it was established, there being no other paper in the county, its editor refused to publish any political articles, except those of his own particular partizans of the old Federal school. Party feeling ran high in those days, and those who took sides with the Democrats, refused to patronize the paper at all, because its columns were not open to free discussion. The whole reading community then being small, one-half of it could not sustain Mr. Romyen. Another circumstance undoubtedly contributed to hasten its downfall. In the violence and bitterness occasioned by party feeling, and in taking a reckless course in wilfully vilifying and scandalizing respectable candidates for office of the Democratic ranks, Mr. Romyen subjected himself to libel suits, which were decided against him. These things brought the "Gazette" into bad repute, it became odious to many; and to cap the climax, it was sarcastically styled the "*Darn'd Gazette*."

At the time the "Gazette" was established, an effort was made to change the name of the village of Manlius to that of Derne. At first the citizens acquiesced in the plan; but owing to circumstances just related, and the fact that Mr. Romyen proved to be a blustering swaggering sort of man, his paper became unpopular, as did the name by which it was known. It is thought by those few now living and acquainted with the circumstances, that had he proved himself a man of stamina and been liberal in his views and to his patrons, the village of Manlius would now be called "*Derne*." A newspaper called the "*Herald of the Times*," was next published by Leonard Kellogg. The first number was issued Tuesday, May 24th, 1808; terms two dollars per annum, or one dollar and fifty cents in advance. The size of the sheet was about ten by seventeen inches. One whole page of the "*Herald of the*

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"Times" was open to the essays and effusions of the Democrats, and another to the Federals, allowing each party a fair chance in the strife. Four or five years afterwards, a newspaper was published at Onondaga called the "Lynx," when Mr. Kellogg changed the name of his paper, and it was called "*The Manlius Times*." Mr. Kellogg was a Federalist, and his paper after this was conducted under Federal principles. Mr. Kellogg's was a well conducted paper, its politics were high toned of the Pickering School.

Mr. Kellogg commanded an independent rifle corps, which was ordered into service in 1812 or 1813. This company was at the battle of Queenston, and were among the few brave militia who crossed the river. This company behaved with great gallantry during the engagement, and received the approbation and thanks of the commanding general.

Lieutenant William Gardner, and Ensign Grosvenor were his associates. The rank and file were mostly from Manlius Village and vicinity.

After a lapse of time, James Beardsley was admitted a partner with Mr. Kellogg, who afterwards had the principal management of it.

After Mr. Kellogg retired from the office, Seneca Hale became a partner. The interest in the office was soon after transferred to Daniel Clark, who changed the name to "Onondaga Herald," first number issued October 28th, 1818. It was afterwards called "The Times," published weekly. It was continued about three years, after which the "Onondaga County Republican" was edited and published by Thurlow Weed, now editor of the Albany Evening Journal. The first number was issued June 27th, 1821. Mr. Weed continued his paper about three years. The "Onondaga Republican" was next published by Laurin Dewy, first number issued 27th October, 1824. The "Manlius Repository" succeeded it and reached its fifth volume under the direction of Luman A. Miller, and for a time under Mr. Stillson. Mr. Fonda published the "Onondaga Flag" a very short time.

The only stream of water of any magnitude in this town is

the Limestone Creek, which runs from south to north across its whole extent, till it forms a junction with the Chittenango, at Matthews' Mills. Upon this stream are many saw mills and grist mills, one woolen factory and two cotton factories, the only ones of the kind in the county. It may be said of this stream as of many others, that during the summer months, the quantity of water passing through its channel, is not near as great as it was twenty years ago, owing probably to the clearing up and draining of numerous little swamps at its source, which once acted as reservoirs, and fed it by gradual drainage during the heat of summer, and the soil is not as retentive of moisture since it has been cleared as it was when in a state of nature.

There are two incorporated academies in town for male and female pupils, both enjoying their proper proportion of the Literature Fund, and subject to the visitation of the Regents of the University. Considering that these academies are located in country villages, they are well sustained by the communities which surround them.

There are twenty-four school districts and joint districts in town, and from reports of Common School Superintendents, the attention which is paid to this important branch of education, is highly creditable to the inhabitants, and much improved within the last few years.

DEEP SPRING.—(Indian name, *Tc-ungk-sat-a-yagh*.)—This is a curiosity which once possessed considerable notoriety. It is situated on the county line, near the Seneca Turnpike, east from Manlius Village, about three and a half miles. The cavity is circular, about sixty feet in diameter at top, drawing nearly to a point at bottom, tunnel shaped, and about thirty feet deep. A copious stream of water issues from the rock on the east side, except in seasons of severe drought, when its size is much diminished. It glides along the bank, from half way down the side, and looses itself at the bottom. Large trees have grown on the side, forming an impenetrable shade in summer. These are literally covered with the names, and initials of names of persons who have visited it from the time

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of its first discovery, till post coaches were withdrawn from the road; since which time, visitors have been far less frequent, and now have almost entirely disappeared. One of the dates on an ancient beech tree, is 1793. The Indian path from Oneida to Onondaga passed near it, as did the first laid out road through the county. It is noted on all the old maps, published by the Surveyor General, and was the starting place of all the old surveys of the Oneida Reservation, and was a noted watering place for persons moving to the western country, as well as for those who settled near it. Thousands visited this spring in early times as a curiosity, and to taste its pure and sparkling water.

It has been often related by an Oneida Indian called Peter, that in the time of the Revolutionary war, a small party of Indians surprised six white men at this spring, who had descended it to drink. They are supposed to have been a scouting party from Fort Schuyler. They were much frightened at the appearance of the Indians, who found them perfectly defenseless, having left their arms on the bank above. As the Indians approached for the same purpose, and neither mistrusting the presence of the other, it may be supposed that both parties at first, were not a little surprised. The Indians, however, having every advantage, instantly recovered themselves, gave a terrific yell, encircled the brink of the spring, and as the terrified soldiers attempted to pass them, they were struck down with tomahawks and scalped. This catastrophe had such an effect upon the mind of Peter, who was one of the party, that it never ceased to haunt him while he lived. He used to say with peculiar emphasis, "It is the only deed I ever committed which the Great Spirit has never forgiven me." At the time, he felt so much remorse that he buried his shirt, which had been sprinkled with the blood of one of the victims. Many tragic scenes have undoubtedly been enacted in this vicinity, for it was no uncommon occurrence to find arrow heads, hatchets, bullets, bayonets and other war-like implements in the immediate neighborhood of this spring. There is a tradition that a severe battle was fought there be-



tween the whites and Indians during the Revolution. (See life and writings of De Witt Clinton, by W. W. Campbell, page 185.) It is now owned by Mr. Thomas A. Clark. Wm. W. Sayles kept a tavern near it, in 1794. There is a traditional account of the passage of a detachment of General Sullivan's army through the Onondaga country, south of the Onondaga castle. It is said that a sharp skirmish was fought between this party and the Onondagas, near La Fayette, where a small Indian settlement was destroyed, and that they passed a night on the flat near the deep spring.

During the period of the early settlement of the country, foolish and infatuated men conceived the idle notion that near this spring, large treasures of gold and silver had at some previous time been secretly buried. Several places were selected as imagined depositories of hidden wealth. Hundreds of holes were dug in different places where their mysterious mineral rods pointed out the identical spot where the precious metals were hid. Their work was always conducted in the night. One of the grand secrets of their art was, that in digging, the person at work must not look from the place where the supposed treasure lay, and during all their operations must keep the most profound silence. If a word was spoken, or an eye lifted from the spot, the treasure was sure to vanish.

**ICE HOLE.**—There is a large cavity in the rocky ledge, north of the residence of David Moulter, near the south-west corner of lot sixty-nine, which becomes filled with ice during winter. Owing to the depth at which the congealed mass lies, (being some fifty or more feet below the surface,) and the rocky precipice facing to the north, the sun and warm weather make but a faint impression upon it during the summer season. Tavern keepers and others from Manlius Village, in olden times, used frequently to resort to it for the purpose of obtaining the cooling crystal, which was often removed in large quantities, for use, on public occasions. Many a tumbler of punch has been cooled on fourth of July celebrations with ice procured from this cavern. There is a similar "*Ice Hole*"

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north-west from the old church, east of Jamesville, on lot eighty-two, some sixty feet below the surface of the earth, where ice of excellent quality may be always obtained.

**WATER FALLS.**—There are two considerable falls of water in this town, one on the east and the other on the west branch of the Limestone Creek, south from Manlius Village, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. The fall on the east branch is somewhat larger and affords excellent sites for mills and machinery, and has been more or less improved since the first settlement of the town. Now owned and occupied by Samuel L. Edwards, Esq. The channel at the edge of the precipice, is about forty-five feet broad, and the breadth of the rocky chasm below, is about one hundred and sixty feet; the water falls somewhat broken, about sixty-five feet, and above the falls, the rapids fall some twenty feet more, making in all, about eighty-five feet. The chasm widens to the north-west. The banks are rocky and precipitous, formed of different strata of limestone. These falls are considerably resorted to by parties of pleasure during the summer months.

The falls on the west branch of the Limestone, are nearly of the same height as those on the east branch. The stream is not as wide, nor does as much water flow over the precipice. It is a place of considerable resort for visitors, for picnic parties, and frequently for large religious meetings.

**GREEN POND.**—There are two bodies of water called by this name in the town of Manlius, three and a half miles north from the village, on lot fifty-six. The upper one is nearly circular, about one hundred rods in diameter, surrounded by hills varying from fifty to a hundred feet in height. In some places approaching the lake abruptly; at others, with a beautiful slope. A dense evergreen wood skirts it on all sides, the shadow of which is beautifully reflected from the soft green mirror like appearance of the water. It is said the waters of these lakes differ from those of Scotland, Switzerland and other elevated portions of Europe. There, the surface is said always to present a bright silver like appearance. This difference may be accounted for, in the different qualities of the

waters. The depth of the lake may be from one hundred to two hundred feet. Its surface is about six feet below the surface of the Erie Canal. There are deep sinks or caverns in the surrounding hills in all directions, varying from ten to thirty feet in depth. These hills are all filled with gypsum, which may be dug at any place in any quantity. The sides of this lake are formed in a secondary deposit of red shale, covered with a greenish white marl. The trees that have fallen into it are whitened by a limelike deposit. The bottom is covered with a dark brown marl, and the waters at the bottom are said to be highly charged with sulphureted hydrogen, without any saline properties. It is excavated in the lower part of the second deposit of the Onondaga salt group, and the red shale below that deposit. This lake is forty-four feet above the level of Onondaga lake, and is of importance, showing that deep excavations exist along the range of gypseous deposit, and that the excavation of Onondaga valley is not an anomalous one. Professor Silliman, in one of his journals, thus speaks of this lake: "The bottom is a grass green ferri-ferous slate; the sides white shell marl, and the brim black vegetable mould; the waters perfectly limpid. The whole appears to the eye to be a rich porcelain bowl filled with limpid nectar. But to the taste it is the true Harrowgate water, and readily convinces the visitor of the correctness of its name—*Lake Sodom*."

The shores are remarkably bold. There is no inlet above ground to this lake, and but a very small outlet at the east side, which connects it with the other green pond, about half a mile below. There are several kinds of fish found in these ponds, but they are so scarce and shy, that the taking affords but little sport; various aquatic plants, and many perfect petrifications of plants and leaves, are found along its shores. It is a place of considerable resort in the summer season, and well repays the visitant for his pains. The lower Green Pond so nearly resembles the one just described, that a description of it would be a mere repetition. Dr. L. C. Beck, (Nat. His. St. N. Y.) thus speaks of this lake: "Water drawn from the

depth of one strongly charged towards terwards testaceous precipitate muriate of barium hydrogen and sulphur above distilled of iron. Thus which exhibits power of the a

MINERAL SPRINGS. considerable power, and has a strong sulphur emitting a strong is said to contain carbonic acid, and a hydrate of iron and in cutaneous diseases. Several specimens of this spring.

About a mile very near each other. The sulphureted hydrogen contain sulphuric forty-eight degrees where the stream received benefit and purify the water. The numerous diseases are probably resorted to in the vicinity. Some of the Springs.

According to statistics:—

Total population 520; number of children attending

depth of one hundred and sixty-eight feet, was found to be strongly charged with sulphureted hydrogen. On being afterwards tested, it blackened silver powerfully, and gave copious precipitates, with solutions of oxalates of ammonia and muriate of barytes, indicating the presence of sulphureted hydrogen and sulphate of lime. Its specific gravity was scarcely above distilled water, and contained not even a trace of oxide of iron. Thus we have here a spacious sulphur bath, a fact which exhibits, in a most striking manner, the extent and power of the agency concerned in the evolution of this gas."

MINERAL SPRINGS.—There is a sulphur spring of considerable power, a short distance south of Manlius Village. It has a strong sulphurous taste; the water is perfectly limpid, emitting a strong sulphurous odor. It has been analyzed, and is said to contain sulphureted hydrogen, a small portion of carbonic acid, sulphate of soda, sulphate of magnesia, carbonate of iron and carbonate of lime, and is considered beneficial in cutaneous diseases and highly diuretic. Tufa and excellent specimens of petrifications, are found in the vicinity of this spring.

About a mile north-west of Manlius Village are three springs very near each other, all of which are feebly charged with sulphureted hydrogen; have also a slightly saline taste, and contain sulphate of magnesia. Temperature usually about forty-eight degrees Fahrenheit. A milky deposit is apparent where the stream passes off. Many persons are said to have received benefit from bathing in the waters. They cleanse and purify the skin, and are considered useful in many cutaneous diseases. They have, at a former period, been considerably resorted to, and have acquired some reputation in the vicinity. Sometimes called Elk Horn Springs and Balsley's Springs.

According to the census of 1845, Manlius has the following statistics:—

Total population, 5,602; persons subject to military duty, 520; number of voters, 1,243; aliens, 128; number of children attending Common Schools, 1,150; acres of improved

land, 20,483; grist mills, 7; saw mills, 14; fulling mills, 2; carding machines, 2; cotton factories, 2; iron works, 1; Asheries, 1; clover mill, 1; tanneries, 4; Churches—Baptist, 2; Episcopalian, 2; Presbyterian, 2; Methodist, 4; Roman Catholic, 1; Academies, 2; Common Schools, 22; Select Schools, 3; taverns, 19; stores, 14; groceries, 21; farmers, 633; merchants, 25; manufacturers, 15; mechanics, 309; lawyers, 11; clergymen, 16; physicians, 9.

DE WITT.—MOSES DE WITT.—The subject of this sketch was a descendant from an ancient, illustrious and honorable family of Holland, who at an early period emigrated to New-York, a branch of which settled in Orange County. Moses De Witt, was born on the 15th day of October, 1766, in the town of Deer Park, anciently called Peempack, on the banks of the Neversink, in the county of Orange. His father was Jacob Rutzen De Witt, a brother of the mother of De Witt Clinton. The family mansion of the De Witts, had been built as a sort of castle, for defense against the Indians, and during the old French war, and the war of the Revolution, had been strongly fortified by rows of palisades and other defenses, the walls being of stone, and of immense thickness. It was occupied by a garrison during the Revolution.

Moses De Witt received a part of his early education with his distinguished cousin, De Witt Clinton, (being two years his senior,) under the instruction of Thomas White, an English gentleman, of liberal education, and an excellent teacher, with whom his favorite pupils made rapid advances in their studies. This gentleman was always particularly attached to his early friend and pupil, Mr. De Witt; was with him much of his life, and closed his eyes in death. Moses D. Burnet and Thomas Rose, of Syracuse, were relatives of Moses De Witt.

At the time General James Clinton, (who was an uncle of Moses De Witt,) and David Rittenhouse, Esq., were appointed commissioners, on the part of the States of New-York and Pennsylvania, for running the boundary line and settling the boundaries between the two States, Moses De Witt was se-

lected as one of the line. This was during which time he was a full surveyor and received the approbation of the State.

When the Military Tract was surveyed, he was one of the Surveyors, and had been a distinguished engineer in plotting and in the survey of the Hardenburgh, and afterwards of the Dutchess, and afterwards of the Ulster, with the assistance of the State.

For his important services he received several commissions in the Military Tract, bordering on Pennsylvania, and was considered one of the most distinguished men in New-York.

He was appointed a member of the organization in 1793, for Herkimer, and exercised the duties of a Justice of the Peace.

In 1793, he was appointed a member of the organization afterwards General Clinton. At the time he was appointed Justice of the Peace of the town of Pompey, he was one of the three of Pompey, and was purchased by his uncle, General Clinton, fifty acres adjoining the town of Pompey, in order to secure a village where he had collected his land. But before the close of his hand was still in the flower before its

lected as one of the Surveyors, to assist in establishing that line. This work engaged the commissioners about three years, during which time young Mr. De Witt proved himself a skillful surveyor and engineer, and retired from that service, with the approbation and high encomiums of his employers.

When the Military Tract was ordered by law to be laid out and surveyed, he was appointed one of the principal assistants of the Surveyor General, Simeon De Witt, (his uncle who had been a distinguished engineer in the army of the Revolution,) in plotting and laying out the said tract, who, with Abraham Hardenburgh, laid out and surveyed the several townships, and afterwards surveyed and subdivided the townships into lots, with the assistance of sundry surveyors.

For his important services to the State, as a surveyor, he received several thousand acres of land, scattered throughout the Military Tract, and along the southern tier of counties, bordering on Pennsylvania. At the time of his death, he was considered one of the greatest individual landholders in western New-York.

He was appointed Surrogate of Herkimer County, at its organization in 1791; was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Herkimer, at the same time, and was the first man who exercised the duties of that office on the Military Tract.

In 1793, he was appointed a Major of militia with Major, afterwards General Danforth; the two had charge of a battalion. At the organization of Onondaga County, in 1794, he was appointed a Judge of the Courts, Surrogate and Justice of the Peace, and was chosen the first Supervisor of the town of Pompey, in April, 1794. He resided on lot number three of Pompey, (since La Fayette) which lot had been drawn by his uncle, General James Clinton, and he also purchased fifty acres adjoining, in the present town of De Witt, in order to secure a valuable water power, on the Butternut Creek, where he had contemplated making extensive improvements. But before the development and accomplishment of his plans, his hand was stayed. He was cut down like an untimely flower before its fragrance had been shed, or its beauty and

excellence admired. He was arrested in his prosperous career, in the midst of activity and usefulness. He had scarcely attained the age of manhood, when the last dread summons called him from the flattering prospects which were before him and already within his grasp, to scenes of higher reward. He died at his residence, south of Jamesville, of billious fever. The angel of death, with an aim,

"Sure and steady as the eye of destiny,"

claimed him for his own. He had acquired an extensive reputation for honesty, integrity and virtue, combined with a rare capacity and talent for business. The few who yet remember him, speak of him as a young man of uncommon promise, and it has often been remarked, that "in him, western New-York lost her pride, and the county of Onondaga, her ablest man." He was borne to his grave followed by an immense concourse of citizens and friends, leaving a reputation unspotted, and a character untarnished. His remains were buried with military honors, in a small family burying ground, about a mile south of Jamesville, and are covered with a marble slab, bearing the following inscription:—

"Here lie the remains of MOSES DE WITT, Major of Militia, and Judge of the County Courts; one of the first, most active, and useful settlers in the county. He was born on the 15th day of October, 1766, and died on the 15th day of August, 1794,"—being only twenty-eight years of age.

The same stone bears this further inscription: "Also of his brother Egbert De Witt, born 25th of April, 1768; died 30th of May, 1793.

Jacob R. De Witt, Esq., died Dec. 18th, 1821, in the forty-sixth year of his age."

DE WITT.—This town was originally a part of the township of Manlius, and was set off from it in the spring of 1835, and named after Moses De Witt, Esq. The first settler in this town was Benjamin Morehouse from Fredericksburgh, Dutchess County, New-York. He arrived 26th April, 1789, with a wife and three small children, following the Indian trail from Oneida to Onondaga. Soon after his

arrival he erected the old church. At that time after his arrival by which name the house here opened. From his distinguished *sobriety* surrounding in the mother of town. rah Morehouse. day of February. Lockport, Niagara. bors were Asa. Hollow, seven share on his. while the black. Herkimer, pure foot, with flour wheat flour into except a small small grist of flour, from necessity out at the stump.

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arrival he erected a log house on the flat, a few rods west of the old church, three and a half miles west of Manlius Village. At that time it was called the Kasoongkta Flats; but soon after his arrival, it received the name of Morehouse's Flats, by which name it was for a long time known. Mr. Morehouse here opened the first tavern kept in the county, in 1790. From his dignified deportment, he soon received the distinguished *sobriquet* of Governor, from travelers and the few surrounding inhabitants. Mrs. Morehouse is supposed to be the mother of the second white child born in this county. Sarah Morehouse was born at her father's residence on the 16th day of February, 1790, and is now living a maiden lady at Lockport, Niagara County. Mr. Morehouse's nearest neighbors were Asa Danforth and Comfort Tyler, at Onondaga Hollow, seven miles distant. In 1791, he carried a plowshare on his back to Westmoreland, to be sharpened, and while the blacksmith was doing the work, he proceeded to Herkimer, purchased thirty pounds of flour, and returned on foot, with flour and plowshare on his back. This was the first wheat flour introduced into his family after their first arrival, except a small quantity brought along at that time. This small grist of flour which had been procured at so much labor, from necessity, lasted near a year. The lack was eked out at the stump mill.

JAMESVILLE and vicinity was settled during the years from 1790 to 1800, by Moses De Witt, Daniel Keeler, Dr. Holbrook, Jeremiah Jackson, William Bends, Stephen Angel, Stephen Hungerford, Jeremiah and James Gould, Roger Merrill, Caleb Nortrup, Benjamin Sanford and others. The village was at first called Sinai.

Jeremiah Jackson erected the first dwelling entitled to the name of frame, in 1797. Joseph Purdy opened the first blacksmith's shop about the same time. In 1798, Matthew Dumfrie built a distillery, malt house and brewery, and manufactured the first beer and whiskey made in the county. Oliver Owen erected a saw mill in 1795. Mr. Trowbridge kept the first tavern at Jamesville, in 1804, afterwards kept by David



Olmsted, in 1806, then considered the best tavern west of Utica. Benjamin Sanford built the mills in 1803. Mr. Hungerford started clothing works about the same time. "*The Jamesville Iron and Woolen Factory*" was chartered in 1809, and a Post Office established same year, Thomas Rose, Post Master. Moses D. Rose succeeded him. The name of Jamesville was adopted at the time the Iron and Woolen Factory was incorporated; the name was given by the Legislature, and was first published and proclaimed at a great fourth of July celebration, held at Jamesville, 1810. First school-house for Jamesville was erected east of the village in 1795, Polly Hibbard, Teacher, succeeded by Susan Ward. The first school in Jamesville, was in 1806.

Congregational Church erected in 1828—Ministers, Rev. Daniel Marsh, Rev. Seth J. Porter, Rev. Messrs. Beach, Smith, Myrick, Day, Morse, Buck, Folts, Lewis, Terry, Hamlin and Vail. Methodist Society erected their church 1831, Rev. George W. Densmore and William W. Rundell, Preachers at that time.

Protestant Episcopal Church edifice, erected 1829, Rev. Burton H. Hickox, Missionary. Sundry clergymen from Manlius, Fayetteville and Syracuse, have officiated there. The parish has never had the exclusive services of a clergyman for any stated time.

John Post, from Utica, was a merchant one mile east of Jamesville, in 1802; Robbins & Callighan, 1804; Keeler, 1805.

Esquire Eager opened a law office at Morehouse's Flats, at an early day; Moses D. Rose and Luther Badger were students in his office.

Dr. Holbrook was the first physician at Jamesville, and was the first physician who located on the township, 1791. It is said, the Doctor presided at the first public meeting held in that section of the country, convened at Morehouse's tavern, for the purpose of taking preliminary measures for the division of Herkimer County.

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alone for some time; but soon inhabitants settled near him. He kept the first tavern in that part of the town. The settlement first went by the name of Youngsville. Mr. Youngs erected the first frame house there—was for a long time a Justice of the Peace, and the first in the township of Manlius.

The falls below Jamesville are somewhat interesting as a curiosity. The water falls about thirty feet perpendicular; the breadth of the creek at the fall is about forty feet. Its rocky chasm and sublime scenery, connected with the immense and inexhaustible beds of gypsum and water lime, and the extensive works for their manufacture, render this a very desirable place for the researches of the geologist, or the rambles of the tourist. There is a tradition alive, that at the time the French colony, located a little south of Jamesville, were massacred; one escaped, and was pursued, overtaken and killed, near these falls. The first gypsum discovered in the township of Manlius, (now in De Witt,) was on lot eighty-one, in 1811. The first discovered in the United States was in the town of Camillus, 1792. (See Camillus.) It had previously been brought from Nova Scotia, and was called Nova Scotia plaster; and before this, it had been brought here from France and Germany, in limited quantities, under the name of Plaster of Paris. Dr. Franklin first introduced it into the United States, as a vegetable stimulant. Robert Livingston first introduced it into the eastern part of the State of New-York, in 1805. The use of gypsum as a dressing for vegetable productions, was first made known in Germany, about the year 1767. Plaster is now an article of trade which brings to this county, yearly, a large amount of money. It is sold at the mills, ground, for one dollar and fifty cents per ton; and delivered in the rock, on the canal, at from seventy-five cents to a dollar per ton. It is estimated that there are annually sold, from the several beds in Onondaga County, from eighteen thousand to twenty thousand tons. *Water-lime* was discovered in this town, first in the county, 1819, or '20, and is now prepared for market, in large quantities, principally in the towns of Manlius and De Witt.

Nathan Beckwith, in sinking a well about a mile east of Jamesville, in 1807, discovered a large cavern. It has been explored to some extent in a south-westerly direction from the entrance at the well. The depth at the entrance of the cavern, may be about twenty feet; height of the cavern at the entrance, about seven feet; width near five feet. These dimensions continue six or eight rods, when the space becomes contracted to a width just sufficient for a single person to pass through. It soon becomes broader. The size is very far from being uniform, the top in some places being not more than three or four feet from the bottom. Dog-tooth spar, stalactites and stalagmites, are numerous. A small stream of water runs along the bottom. The man who dug the well, while in the act of drilling a hole of some ten or twelve inches, his drill suddenly sunk into the cavity up to the bulge. Upon withdrawing the drill a strong current of air came up and continued until the hole was sufficiently enlarged for the purposes of a well. The stream of air would instantly extinguish a lighted candle, and after it was enlarged, would keep coals alive and in a glow. A melancholy circumstance is connected with the discovery of this cave. A young gentleman and lady, residing in Cazenovia, and newly married, came out on a pleasure ride to see the cave. It was on a very warm day, in the month of August. They descended into the cave and remained there near three hours. They became completely chilled; both were taken suddenly ill, and both died within one week from the day they entered the cave. The entrance is now closed, so that there is no admittance to it.

There is another cave, about two miles west of Jamesville, on the farm of the late Mr. Brown, which is several hundred feet deep, and which has never been thoroughly explored. The opening from the top is through a fissure about three feet broad by eight feet long. After descending some twenty feet there is an extensive opening to the great valley below. It is supposed this cave extends all along the great ledge of limestone rock, from the western part of De Witt, nearly to Jamesville. The ledge is usually about two hundred feet high. The

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cave itself is a great singularity if not curiosity, and its exploration might lead to interesting discoveries. There is a tradition that at the time Col. Van Schaick invaded the Onondaga country, in 1779, the native women took refuge in this cave till the former had retired and left their nation free from danger.

When the first settlements were made at Onondaga, this cave and the vicinity became an early object of attraction. It was reported and generally believed that a silver mine existed in the neighborhood, which belief was based upon the following facts: At the time this cave was first made known to the settlers, tools which had been used for mining purposes were found at its mouth, and also a bar of solid silver, two inches square and eighteen inches long, having a point of steel. It is also reported that a kettle of money was found about twenty rods from the cave, which was supposed to have been coined there. While workmen were engaged in excavating a trench near the house of Dr. Baldwin, for the purpose of conducting water, they were saluted by a stranger passing along the road, who told them that not many feet from the spot where they were then at work, lay the skeleton of a man, and remarked that whoever owned that land should never part with it, for it contained treasures they knew not of. In the progress of their work, they discovered the remains of the man, but the treasure has never been found. For several years the neighborhood was explored by money-seekers, with torch-lights by night, but nothing of consequence beyond what has been mentioned, has come to light.

GREEN POND.—About one mile and a half west from the village of Jamesville, in this town, is perhaps one of the most singularly located bodies of water in Western New-York. It is situated, as it were, in a vast natural well or cavern. The banks are composed of different strata of limestone; the southern and western portions, are nearly perpendicular, and in many places, project over the ground below. The northern portion is not as steep, but it is too much so to be easily accessible. These banks are over one hundred feet high, from

the surface of the water, and are richly decked on all sides with evergreen shrubs; the forms of which are beautifully reflected, from the soft, green, mirror-like surface of the waters which they surround. The shape of this lake is circular, and about sixty rods in diameter. It has no outlet, but upon the eastern side, is a low marshy ground, through which the water might flow, but does not. From the brink of the lake, the shore in many places is perpendicular, apparently shelving beneath, and every where extremely abrupt, except on the east. The interior of this vast basin is lined with a greenish white marl; and trees which have fallen into it, are whitened thereby. In several places near the centre, a lead has been lowered, by one hundred yards of line, without reaching bottom, and within fifty feet of the shore, the water is over a hundred feet deep. The water towards the bottom, is highly charged with sulphureted hydrogen, and is usually at an even temperature, of about forty-eight degrees Fahrenheit. Although the water at the surface has no very disagreeable taste, yet, when drawn from any considerable depth, it is scarcely endurable. With this singular locality is connected an Indian tradition, which gave rise to its aboriginal name, which is still preserved among the Onondagas. The Indian path, leading from Oneida to Onondaga, passed in former times along the bank of this pond. Here an Indian woman lost her child in a marvellous manner, and in order to have it restored to her again, made application to the "*Prophet*," for advice. He told her the wicked spirit had taken her child from her, but if she would obey his injunctions, the Great Spirit would take charge of her child, and it would be safe, although it could not be restored.

In the autumn of every year, the woman and her husband, and after them their children, were required to cast a quantity of tobacco into the pond, as an oblation for the spirit's guardian care. This office was religiously performed, and was continued till after the first settlement of the white people at Onondaga; since which it has been discontinued. The name

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given, on account of this circumstance, was KAI-YAH-KOOH, signifying, *satisfied with tobacco*.

MESSINA SPRINGS.—These springs, three in number, and twenty feet apart, are situated about three and a half miles east of Syracuse. The name was given spontaneously by the inhabitants, in the vicinity, in 1835, on account of its contiguity to Syracuse, carrying out the coincidence of locality, of the places bearing the same name in Sicily. They are located on the farm of Dr. David Merrill. It is believed they are inexhaustible, and the waters, so far as observation has been extended, are unchanging. They emerge from a limestone rock, on the surface of which, are found specimens of calcareous substances. The temperature is uniformly fifty degrees Fahrenheit. The water is strongly impregnated with sulphurous particles, yet not very highly charged with gas. Exposure to the atmosphere for a short time, gives it a milky appearance, no doubt in consequence of the decomposition of the sulphureted hydrogen, and the subsidence of some of the less soluble salts. The whitish crust, usually found near springs of this class, is observable here, and the tufa so abundantly met with, undoubtedly owes its formation to waters similarly constituted. The waters from these springs are used with beneficial results, in many cases of disease, especially in those of the skin. The springs were discovered by Mr. Lewis Sweeting, some fifty years since; are easily accessible from all parts of the country. There is a convenient house near, which was erected 1833, where are cold and warm baths, and other advantages for health. Invalids are furnished with comfortable board and lodging, and medical advice, by Dr. Merrill.

The first religious society organized in this town, or the township of Manlius, was under the following style and title: "First Presbyterian or Church of Bloomingvale," (one mile south of Jamesville) "under the care of the General Assembly of American Presbyterian Divines, composed of professors of the Christian religion of the townships of Manlius and Pompey, organized at the house of Daniel Keeler, 29th December, 1795. Daniel Keeler, Comfort Tyler, Jeremiah

Gould, William Hasken, Captain Joseph Smith and John Young, Trustees thereof, &c., Jeremiah Jackson, presiding." The next was the "*Union Congregational Society*," at Morehouse's Flats. It was organized and incorporated under that style and title, in September, 1805. The society erected their church edifice in 1806, and finished it in 1809. The following ministers have officiated there either statedly or occasionally: Rev. Messrs. Atwater, Davenport, Phelps, Johnson, Chadwick, Harrison, Marsh, Cutler and Leavenworth. The society were very much embarrassed by the building of their edifice, and finally suffered it to be sold under a decree of the Chancellor, for considerable less than enough to satisfy the demand against it, and it is now fast going to decay. It is at present used as a barn.

The house of worship at Orville, was erected in 1819, by "*The Orville Presbyterian Society*," (Congregational.)

Post Office established at Orville, 1814. Name of the village then changed from Youngsville to Orville; and when the town of De Witt was erected, the name of the post office was changed to De Witt. Zebulon Ostrom, the first Supervisor; William Eager, Town Clerk; William Eager, David G. Wilkins, Adam Harrowen, Justices of the Peace. Esquire Eager was the first lawyer who located in this town, then Manlius, and Dr. Holbrook the first physician.

According to the last census, we have the following statistics:—

Number of inhabitants, 2,876; number subject to military duty, 267; number of voters, 645; number of aliens, 98; number of paupers, 27; children attending common schools, 705; acres of improved land, 13,076; grist mills, 3; saw mills, 2; fulling mills, 1; carding machines, 3; tanneries, 1; Churches—Episcopal, 1; Presbyterian, 1; Congregational, 2; Methodist, 3; Dutch Reformed, 1; common schools, 15; taverns, 6; stores, 3; groceries, 6; farmers, 282; merchants, 6; manufacturers, 3; mechanics, 110; clergymen, 6; physicians, 7; lawyers, 2.

POMPEY.—The first organized of the Military townships of the Onondaga Road, and east area of this township of its first it contains but in the original lebrity abroad, settled by people their residence town of Mexico the first white spring of 1789, purpose of exploring the lot on which miles north of L Indian orchard, cutt came out th pruning it. He three miles distant Danforth's or M whiedota. In th was surprised th collection of small Wondering at th quired of his Indi after the following the Revolution, th done, in consequ and a part of the 1779; that the On in consequence of the war; consequ occupied or cultivate



POMPEY.—This was one of the original towns, formed at the first organization of the county, in 1794, and number ten of the Military Townships. At that period it comprised the townships of Pompey, Fabius and Tully, with that part of the Onondaga Reservation, lying south of the Great Genesee Road, and east of Onondaga Creek. The boundaries and area of this town, have been materially diminished since the period of its first organization; so that at the present time, it contains but sixty-eight lots of the one hundred, as laid out in the original township. This township obtained great celebrity abroad, at a very early period, and was principally settled by people from New-England, many of whom took up their residence here, while the township was a part of the town of Mexico, Herkimer County. Mr. John Wilcox was the first white settler on the Township, who came out in the spring of 1789, with an Indian chief from Oneida, for the purpose of exploring the country. He made selection of the lot on which he settled, known as the Haskins farm, two miles north of La Fayette village. Here was an extensive Indian orchard, and with a view to its improvement, Abel Olcott came out the same spring, and made arrangements for pruning it. He spent his nights at the Onondaga Castle, three miles distant, there being no white people nearer than Danforth's or Morehouse's. He lodged in the cabin of Cahiedota. In the prosecution of his labors in pruning, he was surprised that in the center of each and every tree was a collection of small brush, about the size of a bushel basket. Wondering at the singularity of such a circumstance, he inquired of his Indian friend and host the cause, who explained after the following manner: He said, that after the war of the Revolution, the Indian settlement at that place was abandoned, in consequence of the destruction of the corn fields, and a part of the great orchard, by Col. Van Schaick, in 1779; that the Onondagas had become completely discouraged, in consequence of the severe losses they had sustained during the war; consequently the Indians, since the war, had not occupied or cultivated any of their lands in that quarter, and



the brush he had found collected in the apple-trees, was the work of bears, who ascended the trees in autumn, gathering in the slender branches loaded with apples, with their paws, leisurely devouring the fruit, at the same time depositing the branches under them, between the larger diverging limbs, for a more comfortable seat. Sometime after Mr. Wilcox had settled in his new place of abode, his harvests had been abundant, and his stacks of hay and wheat numerous; (for as yet, he had no barns,) every thing seemed to prosper in his hands, but lo, in a single night his cherished hopes were blasted, for some ruthless hand had lighted the torch, and applied it with complete fatality to the gathered treasures of the year. He awoke in the morning only to behold the desolation, and the smoking ruins of his labors, his sustenance and wealth. The Indians were suspected as guilty of the outrage, and complaint was at once made to the principal chief at Onondaga, who upon investigation, remarked to Mr. Wilcox with the most perfect *non chalance*, without palliation or denial, "You dig up no more dead Indian, no more will your stacks be burned." The admonition was sufficient, for although it had been a common practice to rob Indian graves, for the brass kettles and trinkets buried with the bodies; it was from this time discontinued, and the harvests of the farmers were henceforth unmolested.

The first settlers in the present town of Pompey, were Ebenezer Butler, from Harrington, Connecticut, who located on lot number sixty-five, in 1792. His brother, Jesse Butler, and Jacob Hoar, came on in the spring of the same year. Sally Hoar was the first white child born in this town, and Orange, son of Jesse Butler, the first male child. Ebenezer Butler died in 1829; he has descendants still living in Ohio. Directly after these first, came James Olcott, True Worthy and Selah Cook, Noadiah and Epiphas Olcott, the Holbrooks, Jeromes, Hibbards, Hinsdales, Messingers, Westerns, Allens, Burrs and others, so that neighborhoods began to be formed in many places, as early as 1793 and 1794. The first settlers obtained flour from Whitestown, many of whom went there on

horseback to mill bushel of wheat the flour, and J bushel, on his b corn made use of and one good st Marketing and t Schuyler and H done by ox team ing for Pompey, April 1st, 1794, Hezekiah Olcott, George Catlin and Olcott, Jeremiah Highways. A s ber, 1794, at the Haskins was chosen deceased. The s nezer Butler's tation passed by th that the mode of and mark against Ebenezer Butler v Town Clerk. At free commoners," for the scalp of a town meeting held chosen Supervisor several years, tow and John Lamb v meetings were again been held at Pom

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horseback to mill, and some on foot. True Worthy Cook took a bushel of wheat on his back, to Herkimer, and brought back the flour, and Jacob Hoar brought his seed potatoes, half a bushel, on his back from Whitestown to Pompey Hill. The corn made use of in families, was pounded in stump mortars, and one good stump mill answered for a whole neighborhood. Marketing and trade was mostly done at Whitestown, old Fort Schuyler and Herkimer, and the transportation was mostly done by ox teams, in the winter season. The first town meeting for Pompey, was held at the house of Ebenezer Butler, April 1st, 1794, Moses De Witt was chosen Supervisor, and Hezekiah Olcott, Town Clerk; Allen Beach, Wm. Haskins, George Catlin and Ebenezer Butler, Jr., Assessors; Thomas Olcott, Jeremiah Gould and John Lamb, Commissioners of Highways. A special town meeting was held, 20th September, 1794, at the house of Ebenezer Butler, at which Wm. Haskins was chosen Supervisor, in place of Moses De Witt, deceased. The second annual town meeting was held at Ebenezer Butler's tavern, 7th of April, 1795. The first resolution passed by this meeting is in the following words, "Voted that the mode of choosing Supervisor and Clerk be, to speak and mark against his name, and the remainder by nomination." Ebenezer Butler was chosen Supervisor, and Hezekiah Olcott, Town Clerk. At this meeting it was voted that "hogs be free commoners," and "that a bounty of five dollars be paid for the scalp of any full grown wolf." At the third annual town meeting held at Butler's, 1796, Ebenezer Butler was chosen Supervisor, and Hezekiah Olcott, Town Clerk. For several years, town meetings were held at Manoah Pratt's, and John Lamb was chosen Supervisor. Afterwards, town meetings were again held on the Hill, until lately, they have been held at Pompey Center.

The first religious society organized in the town of Pompey, and in the county of Onondaga, when it comprised the whole Military Tract, was under the title of the "First Presbyterian society of the town of Pompey," 16th June, 1794. Ebenezer Butler, Jr., and Allen Beach, presided at the meet-

ing, which was held at Mr. Butler's tavern. Moses De Witt, Ozias Burr and Ebenezer Butler, were chosen Trustees. The same year, 29th December, 1794, the first Presbyterian society was formed at Scipio, Silas Holbrook, Zeeb Taylor, John Richardson, Daniel Mark, Benjamin Tracy and Abram French Trustees. Next year, September 22d, 1795, the Baptist Church in Scipio, was formed, David Irish, Thomas Lapum, Asa Harris, Jeremiah Bishop, Jr., Alexander Weeks and Timothy How, Trustees. Others were organized in different parts of the county soon after. The first house of worship in town, was built at "*Butler's (Pompey) Hill*," of logs, about the year 1798. The Rev. Mr. Robins, a missionary from Connecticut, first preached at Pompey Hill, 1793, and assisted to organize the Church, 1794. Rev. Hugh Wallace was the first settled preacher—a Congregationalist. Mr. Wallace organized "The First Religious Congregational Society," of the town of Pompey, 8th April, 1800. Ebenezer Butler, Jr., Manoah Pratt, John Jerome, Timothy Cossit, Daniel Dunham, and John Kedder, Trustees. They used to meet in barns, houses, and at school houses. A Union Congregational Society, was formed near Capt. Moltrops, Pompey, May 18th, 1809. Trustees—Manoah Pratt, True W. Cook, Joseph Wadsworth, Josiah Holbrook, Benjamin Davis and William Dean. Rev. Joseph Gilbert, Rev. Hugh Wallace and Rev. Mr. Rawson, preached in this town during the years from 1793 to 1808. Afterwards, the Rev. Joshua Leonard, who had charge of the Academy, and Rev. Mr. Chadwick and Rev. Mr. Barrows. In 1817, the present house of worship was erected, on Pompey Hill, and consecrated first Sunday in January, 1818. Soon after, a Baptist house of worship was put up, and a Methodist, and more recently, a society of Campbellites have been organized. "The First Methodist Episcopal Society in the town of Pompey," organized 1810. Rev. James Kelsey presided, Aaron Chapin acted as Clerk. Reuben Clark, Thomas Grimes, Enoch Wilcox, Joel Canfield, Chester Truesdale and William O'Farrell, Trustees. Methodist Episcopal Church, Pompey, organized at the house of Phineas Barns, James

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Seoville, Phineas Barns, Shubal Safford, Simeon Sutherland and Luther Buel, Trustees. Zion Methodist society organized at Delphi, January 22d, 1822, and Central Congregational society, Green's Corners, 5th Feb., 1822—Eli Hubbard, Gilbert Jackson, Roswell Sutton, Daniel Candee, Jr., and Seth White, Trustees. A Protestant Episcopal Church was organized in 1823. The Rev. Mr. Rolf, a Roman Catholic minister, officiated in this town in 1836, and James O'Donnell, an Augustinian afterwards. Mr. David Dodge and family, are the principal, if not the only persons of this denomination in town. He has a private chapel in his house, in which the daily worship of his household is conducted, and mass and other offices of devotion are performed on the first Tuesday of every month, by a Roman Catholic priest.

The first lawyer who settled in this town was Samuel Miles Hopkins, who made but a short stay, and boarded at the house of Oliver Sweet. He afterwards moved to Geneseo and became quite a distinguished man. Daniel Wood, Esq., next settled as a lawyer on Pompey Hill, about the year 1800. Victory Birdseye, Esq., settled as a lawyer in 1807. Daniel Gott, Esq., afterwards.

Dr. Samuel Beach, first physician in town, 1798. Dr. Josiah Colton settled two miles east of Pompey Hill, 1801. Dr. Deodatus Clark practiced medicine a short time in this town. He died not long since, at Oswego, aged ninety years. Dr. Tibballs came in soon after and settled on the Hill, and passed all the prime of his life there. The first school teacher was Mr. J. Gould. The first person who taught any thing beyond the rudiments of an English education, was Mr. James Robinson, who taught the classics and higher English, at the Hill, in 1805, 1806, 1807. Schools in this town have taken an elevated stand, owing mainly to the importance attached to instruction, by the New England settlers, who, at an early day, procured the erection and endowment of an excellent Academy at Pompey Hill, 1811. In 1813, the commissioners of the Land Office were directed by the Legislature to grant letters patent to the Trustees of Pompey Academy, and

their successors in office, the fee simple of lot number fifteen, in the township of Camillus, Onondaga County, with the privilege to sell and invest the proceeds in landed security, and appropriate the interest, arising from such investment, to the support and maintenance of instruction in said Academy, from which a fund of about four thousand dollars was created, which with the annual appropriations from the Regents of the University, enables the Trustees of this institution to afford ample means of instruction, to all who may desire it, at a reasonable rate. This Academy has had the happy effect of disseminating intellectual improvement, much more generally in its vicinity, than it possibly could have been without the aid of this, or a similar institution. The first mills erected in this town were at Pratt's Falls, by Messrs. Pratt and Smith; a grist mill in 1798, and a saw mill a year or two earlier.

On the west branch of the Limestone Creek, near the mills of the Messrs. Pratt, about two and a half miles north-east of Pompey Hill, is a remarkable waterfall, of about one hundred and sixty feet, which at high water, presents a very grand and imposing appearance. This fall is almost perpendicular, yet enough broken to add beauty to its general character. The chasm below the fall is narrow, deep, abrupt, and the sides much worn. The rock is brown shale. Several years ago a young woman in search of raspberries, then abundant on the brink of the precipice, near where the water takes its final leap, fell off a distance of about sixty feet, before encountering any object to obstruct her fall. At this distance, she struck upon a projecting rock, and rolled in every variety of attitude, over one hundred feet further; the whole distance from the place from which she fell, to the place at which she finally landed, and from which she was taken up, was ascertained by actual measure, to be over one hundred and seventy feet. She was taken up senseless, but after awhile was restored to consciousness; and although severely bruised, no bones were broken, and she finally recovered. Another young woman, of rather romantic turn of mind, descended a perpendicular part of the precipice of some twenty-five feet, and

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when discovered by her companions, who formed a large pleasure party, she was very composedly walking on a narrow shelf, but a few inches broad, with a yawning abyss, of over one hundred feet below, and a projecting cliff twenty feet above her. After considerable exertion, by means of a rope, she was recovered in safety, much to the joy of her companions, although for herself she manifested no surprise or regret.

Henry Seymour, Esq., built a wind mill on Pompey Hill in 1810; it proved a failure, and another was erected soon after, which did business several years. It was built mainly for his own convenience in the preparation of grain for distilling. Daniel Wood, Esq., was the first Post Master at Pompey Hill, 1811; previously the place went by the name of Butler's Hill.

There are several stone quarries in this town, used for building purposes, mostly dark shale, which are not considered of the most durable or desirable kind. Among these are found petrifications of oyster, clam and scollup shells, and specimens of trilobite, and other extinct species of crustacea, found in the earliest fossiliferous strata.

There is one Revolutionary soldier, Mr. Conrad Bush, who resides on the lot for which he served, number thirty-seven. He came upon his lot in 1800, and had to eject settlers, who had already appropriated it to themselves. He still holds the same six hundred and forty acres entire, and although ninety-four years old, (1848) his mind is clear, and his natural force unabated. He and Thomas Dixon, of La Fayette, and Levi Bishop, of Manlius, and Jephtha Lee, of Ithaca, are supposed to be the last and only survivors of Colonel Lamb's regiment of artillery, formed for the defense of the New-York frontier, in 1781. Mr. Bush was at the battle of Long Island, with a company of Pennsylvania militia. He was also at the battles of Trenton and Princeton, and the taking of Cornwallis; the stirring scenes of which he delights to relate, entering into all the minutiae with the fervor and zeal of youth. He states, that at the time his regiment was discharged, so much and often had they been disappointed by the promises of Congress,

that when their certificates were made out, for their individual shares of land, a large majority had no confidence in the allotment of these bounties, and many cried out, who will give a pint of rum for mine? Who will give a blanket for mine? A great many sold their shares for the merest trifle. But, says he, with unmingled satisfaction, "I held on to mine, and I am well off." Mr. Bush is a German by birth, and was well known to General La Fayette, who recognized him on his visit to this country in 1825. He held a sort of impromptu secretaryship to Timothy Pickering, in cases of emergency. This gentleman always sought opportunities to acknowledge his regard for him.

It may not be uninteresting to the rising generation to be informed, that less than fifty-five years ago, such a vehicle as a horse wagon, was not in existence in this town or county, and the visiting was done mostly in winter on ox sleds; and happy and rich indeed was he who could yoke a pair of oxen of his own, make his way through the woods with his wife and a child or two on the sled, on an evening's visit to a neighbor's, several miles distant. In fact, such a man was considered in rather opulent circumstances; and too, it was no disparagement for the belles and beaux of that day to attend the singing school or the spinning bee on the ox sled. After a few years a change came over this scene, the woods in a measure disappeared, the sun's rays began to kiss the naked ground, and more comfortable dwellings were introduced in place of the houses and barns of logs. At length a beautiful village appears, and is called *Butler's Hill*, afterwards, *Pompey Hill*; and there was a time within the memory of many still living, when this same village of *Pompey Hill*, was as prominent a place as any in the county. It gave more tone to the surrounding settlements, on account of its refinement and wealth, its intelligence and learning, than any place in its vicinity. People came here for legal advice, they came here for medical advice, to do their trading, and they came here for fashions, they came here for military parades, for political discussions, and for general consultations of a public nature; they came

here to engage men of a public

Mr. Cobb, Esq. occupied Newm Pompey Hill v Lilley the black or three families here were settled the Wilcoxes, the McEvers, the lawyers, merchants formed the village kins, Mr. Catlin sell Clark, Mr. Esq. Birdseye, a host of others, v

As the country prostrated by the the right of possessions, where the the town of Faber apparently displayed nacity and boldness. And not u and make forcible of the younger boys noyance of the so frequent that means of ridding was resolved that his unlawful visits terminating war. snow, and Bruin, tion, that it would ter, he sallied for man, and took the tended to butcher



here to engage in all the amusements and duties incident to men of a public character.

Mr. Cobb, Esquire Beebe, Mr. Jones and the Newmans, occupied Newman's Hill, east from Pompey Hill; and upon Pompey Hill were settled, Judge Butler, Captain Butler, Lilley the blacksmith, Esquire Bowers, Colonel Olcott, two or three families of the name of Hoar; and around about here were settled the Jeromes, the Durhams, the Pixleys, the Wilcoxes, the Judds, the Coes, the Bishops, the Conklins, the McEvers, the Fosters. Afterwards came the doctors, lawyers, merchants, ministers, tavern keepers, who altogether, formed the village. There was Parson Wallace, Col. Hopkins, Mr. Catlin, Esq. Wood, Dr. Tibballs, Dr. Colton, Russell Clark, Mr. Emmons, Seymour & Stone, Messrs. Bakers, Esq. Birdseye, afterwards the Wheatons and Marshes, and a host of others, whose names are equally entitled to respect.

As the country increased in population, and the forests were prostrated by the woodman's ax, the beasts of prey yielding the right of possession, retreated into the more unbroken regions, where the dwellings of men were not as frequent. In the town of Fabius, the next town south, an old bear lingered, apparently disputing the right of occupancy, with more tenacity and boldness, than some of his more timorous associates. And not unfrequently did he sally forth in the night, and make forcible entry into the pig pens and carry off some of the younger branches of the swine family, much to the annoyance of the settlers. These depredations finally became so frequent that the neighbors held a consultation upon the means of ridding community of so obnoxious a visitor, and it was resolved that the next time he should commit another of his unlawful visits, it should be considered a just cause of exterminating war. Soon after this, there was a heavy fall of snow, and Bruin, probably considering this a serious admonition, that it would soon be time for him to burrow up for winter, he sallied forth one night and entered the sty of a poor man, and took therefrom a porker, which the owner had intended to butcher in a few days, to supply the necessities of

his own family. This was no sooner known, than the male portion of the community, rallied to a man, and arming themselves with guns, axes and pitchforks, calling to their aid the dogs of the neighborhood, set out upon the track, which in the snow was visible and plain. They soon started his bearship, who posted off, with all possible speed, towards Pompey Hill. The chase was a hot one, and attended on the way with frequent skirmishes, and more especially so between the bear and the dogs. In most of these the bear had the best of the battle, and had it not been for fresh dogs, that constantly supplied the places of the wounded and delinquent, the pursuit would have been hopeless, for not a dog could be induced to renew the attack that had received one single salutation from this lord of the forest. The chase waxed warm, and Bruin at last became so pressed, and so fatigued with running in the snow, that as a last resort he threw himself into the public highway, and took the beaten track towards Pompey Hill. Among the citizens of Pompey Hill, who were engaged in this affair, was a deputy sheriff or constable. He carried in his breast pocket an enormous pocket-book, containing a large package of papers. This officer, at the head of his *posse commitatus*, stood ready to arrest the old bear as he entered the village, but Bruin, either doubting his jurisdiction, or disregarding the law against resisting the service of process, rose upon his hind feet the instant said officer tapped him on the nose with his stick, and seizing him with his fore paws, brought him forthwith to the ground, then opening his huge mouth, grabbed the officer in the side, and would no doubt have killed him on the spot, had it not happened that when the bear closed his ponderous jaws, he grasped this enormous pocket-book, which completely filled his mouth. In the struggle, however, the bear inflicted quite a severe wound, held on to the pocket-book, and held the man fast, till another man approached with a sharp ax, who with a single stroke settled the edge deep into the brain of the enraged bear. Thus was the ferocious beast slain, and a valuable civil officer rescued from an unpleasant if not perilous situation. This occurrence

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took place in 1802 or '3, and is still a story of interest to the descendants of the participators in the scenes of that day.

Major Case, while at work on the highway, in this town, in the month of June, 1800, was attacked by a large bear. Having an ax in his hands, he made a pass with it at the enraged animal, who dexterously knocked the weapon to one side with his paw, and seizing the man by the breast brought him to the ground inflicting several severe wounds on different parts of his body. While thus engaged, another man came up and dispatched the bear with an ax. Major Case lingered for near a year; his wounds would not heal, and he at length died from their effects.

POMPEY HOLLOW, DELPHI, &c.—This highly fertile and interesting valley, which borders on the east line of the county, is ten miles in length by about two in width, and contains near twelve thousand acres of land. It was eagerly sought, at an early period of the settlement of the town of Pompey, as a locality suitable for the most extensive and profitable operations of the agriculturist. The uniform prosperity which has attended the proprietors of the soil of this favored spot, is sufficient evidence, that the judgment of those who first located here, was not misplaced; and the wealth, affluence and comfort, which is now every where apparent, is a sure indication that industry, frugality and thrift, still hold a high place among the present occupants of this beautiful valley. It is watered its entire length by the east branch of the Limestone Creek, which takes its rise in the towns of Cazenovia, De Ruyter and Fabius. Upon this stream are numerous saw mills, two grist mills, an extensive woolen factory, and clothing works of smaller magnitude. The first settlers who came here were Samnel Draper and James McClure, in 1792. They were followed almost immediately by Ozias Burr, Messrs. Wright, Cook, Atwell, Allen, Elihu Barber, John Lamb, Capt. Peck, Daniel Thomas and others, most of whom were from the New England States. The land of this valley, like much of that in other parts of the town of Pompey, had to be cleared of heavy timber, consisting of elm, oak, ash, maple, basswood,



from Connecticut ministered to their spiritual wants. The first was the Rev. Mr. Perry, who preached in James Scoville's barn, and in other barns in the neighborhood. Mr. Wallace, Mr. Stoddard and Mr. Rawson, all Congregationalists, preached here.

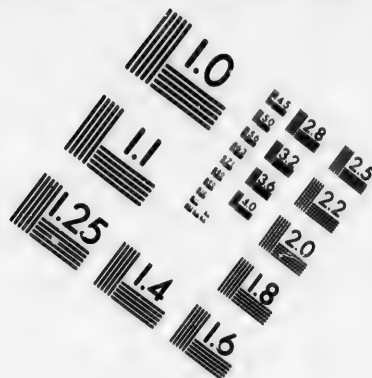
Rev. Hugh Wallace organized the society in Oran, 27th January, 1806. The society was re-organized under the title of the "*Second Congregational Society of the town of Pompey*," 6th October, 1806, when Punderson Avery, Jedediah Cleveland and Joseph Bartholomew, were elected Trustees, Lemuel Hall and Jedediah Cleveland, presiding at the meeting.

The first frame house of worship in the town of Pompey, was erected by this society in 1807 and '8, being the third house of worship erected in the county. The following Rev. gentlemen have occasionally or statedly officiated here. Rev. Messrs. Rawson, Davenport and Baldwin, were settled here; Rev. Messrs. Leonard and Chadwick, and several Baptist and Methodist Clergymen, have occasionally officiated. The Universalist Society now hold and occasionally occupy the house, and furnish a large part of the congregation. The building is apparently fast going to decay.

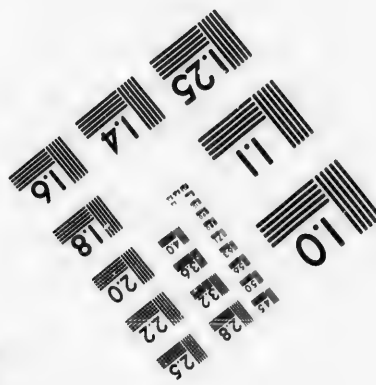
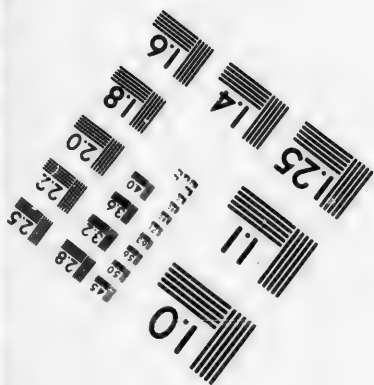
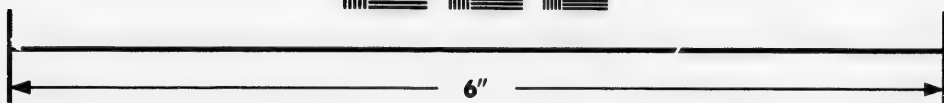
Dr. Daniel Dennison first commenced the practice of medicine at this place, in 1814, and is still at his post healing the sick and comforting the dying. Previously, Drs. Ward, Weed and Fisk, of Eagle Village, had officiated as physicians at this place. No lawyer has ever resided at Oran. Messrs. Delamater opened the first store of note here about the year 1810, and did a flourishing business.

In 1798, this valley was visited by myriads of caterpillars, which totally stripped the forests of their foliage, and attacked the smaller vegetables with great voracity, doing considerable damage to the tender corn. They however disappeared in the month of June, vegetation revived, and the crops were plentiful. These insects were so numerous, that they congregated in heaps, on the eaves and chimnies of the houses at evening, and when fires were kindled in the morning, were very troublesome, often spinning down the low stick chimnies





A resolution test chart featuring various patterns of horizontal and vertical lines of increasing frequency. Each pattern is accompanied by a numerical value representing its resolution. The values include 1.0, 1.1, 1.25, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 2.0, 2.2, 2.5, 2.8, 3.2, 3.6, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.6, 6.3, 7.1, 8.0, and 9.0. The chart is used to measure the resolving power of imaging systems.



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into the cookery, and when their day was over, in such quantities had they accumulated that the atmosphere was completely tainted with their decaying remains.

A little east of the village of Delphi, are two very beautiful waterfalls, on the Limestone Creek. They are separated by a deep rocky gorge, of some twenty rods in extent, about thirty yards broad at the top, and not more than eight or ten at bottom, through which the water rushes with great force. The upper fall may be about forty feet in height, and nearly perpendicular, very little broken, and situated as it is among this wild mountain scenery, conveys to the mind an idea of sublimity and grandeur, exciting both wonder and astonishment. The lower fall is about fifty feet, and the water leaps over the abrupt and rocky precipice, with a charming mixture of the picturesque and sublime. The high banks of bare dark brown shale, with occasionally an evergreen shrub growing out of the perpendicular precipice, serves to vary the effect, and give life to the boldness and imagery of the scene.

Statistics of Pompey from census of 1845:—

Number of inhabitants, 4,112; subject to military duty, 257; voters, 977; aliens, 36; paupers, 6; children attending Common Schools, 1,029; acres of improved land, 30,951; grist mills, 3; saw mills, 11; oil mills, 2; fulling mills, 1; carding machines, 1; woolen factory, 1; trip hammer, 1; asheries, 1; tanneries, 5; Churches—Baptist, 3; Presbyterian, 3; Episcopal, 1; Methodist, 4; Universalist, 1; Roman Catholic, private, 1; Academy, 1; Common Schools, 26; Select Schools, 1; taverns, 8; retail stores, 5; merchants, 9; manufacturers, 26; farmers, 775; mechanics, 88; clergymen, 9; physicians, 6; lawyers, 5.

ANTIQUITIES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF POMPEY.—The antiquities of the township of Pompey, consist mainly of earthen forts and defenses—mural remains, traces of villages, trading establishments, burying places and sundry articles found scattered among them. These things, it is our intention briefly to notice.

One of the most noted localities of this kind, is the one on the

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farm of Isaac P. Jobs, usually called "Indian Hill." Upon this spot have been found, perhaps a greater variety of articles, positively indicating the residence, at some early period, of Europeans, than on any other in the vicinity. It is in the town of Pompey, two miles south of Manlius Village, situated on one of the most beautiful elevations, imaginable. As you approach it on the road from the south, the ascent is gradual, backed by an extensive level. On the west, is a deep gulf, made by the west branch of the Limestone Creek. On the east, is a deep ravine, through which flows a small stream, whose banks are very bold. The whole length of this elevation, bearing the strongest evidence of having been inhabited, may be nearly a mile, and it is from one hundred to one hundred and fifty rods wide. To the north, is a beautiful slope, extending some thirty or forty rods, when it takes a rapid fall of fifty or more feet. Then a plain of some thirty or forty acres, spreads itself out in full view from the hill. Upon this level were several acres literally covered with graves.

A brass medal was found near this place, in 1821, by John Watson. It was without date, on one side of it was a figure of Louis XIV, king of France and Navarre. On the reverse side, was represented a field, with three flowers de luce, supporting a royal crown, surrounded by the name of Nalf Lanfar & Co. It was about the size of a Spanish pistareen, had been compressed between dies—characters and letters distinct. It was given to the Hon. Samuel L. Mitchell, to grace his collection of curious relics and coins.

When the first settlers came here in 1791, '92, '93, this ground was covered with thorns, wild plumtrees and other shrubs, indicating that it had been cleared and cultivated at some previous time. When it was first cultivated in these latter times, gun barrels, sword blades, hatchets, knives, axes, clay pipes, copper kettles, brass chains, beads of glass, pewter plates, rings for the fingers, ear and nose jewels, lead balls, iron gate hangings, copper coins, tools for working wood and iron, and other articles used by civilized men and unknown to savages, together with human bones, were frequently found on

or near the earth's surface. Many of our early settlers, now living, distinctly recollect the appearance of the enclosure entitled "the fort," upon and about which, trees had grown to a considerable size. Its earthen walls were then some four or five feet high, having evidently been considerably lessened by the ravages of time. It was circular, and from three hundred to three hundred and fifty feet in diameter. There was but one gateway, and that quite narrow. In 1801, Mr. John Hatch ploughed up three muskets and a blunderbuss. They were found near together, the stocks decayed, the barrels flattened as if with the head of an ax, plainly bearing the indentations of that instrument. There are traditionary notions prevailing with some of the inhabitants in this vicinity, that the mutilation of these arms in this manner was by the Indians, who did it that the *sound* of the guns might not kill them. It is supposed that they were ignorant of the true cause of the weapon's power of destructiveness. This conclusion is probably erroneous, as nearly all the gun barrels have been found flattened at their muzzles, and the more reasonable inference is, that it was the work of victorious parties who were unable to secure them by removal, and did it to prevent their again becoming useful in the hands of their enemies.

The guns usually found, are of a heavy make, with large bell-shaped muzzles; those seen by the author were evidently of English manufacture. The copper coins were French, though so much corroded, that the marks and dates could not be deciphered. Several pits where corn had been stored were visible. In one of these pits a large quantity of charred corn was found. Probably on the breaking up of the establishment, the lodge which contained it was burned over it, and thus prepared the mass for the state of preservation in which it was found. At every plowing something new is brought to light. Not long since a curiously wrought brass chain, two and a half feet long and one inch and a half wide, was found. Its appearance was as if it had recently been subjected to fire, the most prominent parts newly polished. A curious brass image was recently found there, probably a part of some Romish

priest's collection. Jobs or his wife. The soil upon an extensive mound, has been mured. Large regular interment ashes and charred cabins or houses visited this place in 1816, made mention of some of which Society. A large piece of a lance net, &c.

There is an acre or two of land, several acres were children. The sitting posture of a weapon of war was found two or three bones of the human body. From appearances graves, were covered upon them. There is over some of the

This and all the by antiquaries for the purpose of the extent has this time it would be no harm to be gone; their garments wave upon and we should years ago, when name deserves

priest's collection. Many of these relics were found by Mr. Jobs or his workmen, and several are now in his possession. The soil upon this ridge, where undoubtedly once flourished an extensive Indian village, and European trading establishments, has the appearance of rich garden mold recently manured. Large spots of very dark mold may still be seen at regular intervals, a few yards apart, in which are mingled ashes and charcoal, and these, probably, mark the site of the cabins or houses once standing over them. De Witt Clinton visited this place and others of a similar nature in 1815 or 1816, made many inquiries, and gathered a variety of relics, some of which were presented to the New-York Historical Society. Among them were a small bell without a clapper, piece of a large bell, a gold finger ring, sword blade, bayonet, &c.

There is an extensive burying place contiguous, where several acres were once covered with graves of men, women and children. The skeletons were universally found buried in a sitting posture, facing the east, with some domestic utensil or weapon of war between the thigh bones. They are usually found two or three feet below the surface. The skull and bones of the body are uniformly sunk to a level with the legs. From appearances, the bodies, after being placed in their graves, were covered with brush previous to casting the earth upon them. Trees of two hundred years' growth, once stood over some of these graves.

This and all the other burying places have been resorted to by antiquaries and others, more curious than considerate, for the purpose of obtaining Indian skeletons. To so great an extent has this rude practice been carried, that perhaps at this time it would be difficult to find one by seeking—as if it could be no harm to rob an Indian's grave. These noble men have gone; their generations sleep in our cultivated fields; our harvests wave upon their hills; we have robbed them of all else, and we should at least spare their places of sepulchre. Many years ago, when the settlements were first made, a man, whose name deserves not to be remembered, made a regular business

of disinterring the bones contained in the Indian graves, taking whatever was found in them to himself. Hundreds of skeletons have been removed for anatomical purposes, and to enlarge the cabinets of the curious. In this unhallowed business he amassed several hundred dollars' worth of property. The Indians, who are remarkable for their regard for the dead, who, though Pagan in their worship, are shining examples for Christians to follow, in respect to the violation of these sacred deposits, were at one time on the point of unceremoniously chastising him in a most summary manner. He eluded their vengeance and never dared visit the country afterwards.

There is another place of considerable importance, called "the castle," near David Williams', Pompey, one mile from "Indian Hill." In former years it was owned by Michael Bourse, who collected a great variety of trinkets, consisting of beads, precious "stone ornaments," &c. In 1815, a brass medal was found, on one side of which was an equestrian image with a drawn sword, and on the other, William, Prince of Orange, with a crest or coat of arms; the date was obliterated. William, Prince of Orange, flourished in 1689, and was quite conspicuous in the affairs of New-York for several years previous. This medal may have been a present by him to some distinguished chief. In that neighborhood, a bass wood tree was felled, and an ineffectual attempt made to split the first twelve feet into rails. It was found impossible to open it at all, when, upon farther examination, a large chain was found encircling it, over which one hundred and seventy-eight concentric circles had formed, representing as many years. A large hemlock tree was discovered with three distinct cuts of an ax, over which one hundred and seventy-nine of these granular circles had formed. Now subtract one hundred and seventy-eight from 1815, the time when these examinations were made, and we have the date 1637, as the time when these marks were supposed to have been made, at which time, it is reasonable to suppose, the neighborhood was inhabited by Europeans. A mortar dug out of solid rock may be seen at the brook near by, holding nearly a peck. In the steep banks

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of this brook are numerous evidences of its having been the scene of a hard fought battle. Articles of war, such as gun-barrels and bullets, have been found, and also knives, axes, &c., upon this particular spot. The regular appearance of four laid out streets for a considerable extent, was once very discernable, and small hillocks where corn had evidently been cultivated could be traced for a long distance. Weapons and implements anciently used by the Indians were frequently found by farmers in plowing their fields, consisting of arrow-heads, axes, hatchets, gouges, pestles, &c., made of flint, granite and hornblend, nicely cut and finely polished. David Williams at one time plowed up the skeleton of a man, and found with it a small brass kettle filled with corn and beans, in a tolerable state of preservation. The kettle was used in his family for domestic purposes several years. A gun barrel was found leaning against a tree, with two-thirds of its top imbedded therein. Wood had made over it about twelve inches. Fragments of the lock were found with it. A box was discovered below the surface of the earth, supposed to have been buried in a hurried manner. It was so far preserved as to show plainly that it had been made of riven planks of ash, partially smoothed with an ax. It contained cloths of red and blue colors; the folds could plainly be seen, and parts were so sound as to admit of being raised without falling asunder. Lead clasps, bearing French marks upon them, were contained in the box.

Samuel Hibbard and David Hinsdale at one time found a gun barrel on lot number six. They were then boys, and thought to have a little sport. For this purpose they placed the butt end of the gun barrel in the fire, for the purpose of burning off the rust; after a while the barrel exploded and forced a ball against the stone jambs, which completely flattened it. How long this weapon had been charged is unknown, but allowing it to be at the date of other evidences of French occupancy, it must have been near one hundred and forty years. The barrel when found was standing upright in a clump of bass wood bushes, as if it had been leaned against



a stump which had decayed, and the clump of shrubbery grown up in its stead. Over thirty ivory combs were found near the same place, many of them in a tolerable state of preservation. Wagon loads of old iron have been taken from these grounds.

Mr. Hinsdale of Pompey, at one time had in his possession three vises, one of which was very large, and the jaws alone weighed forty one pounds. It was beautifully engraved all over, with representations of dogs, bears, deer, squirrels, fishes, birds, and was altogether a beautiful specimen of workmanship. Another, a hand vise of excellent quality, was sold to Mr. Boylston, a silversmith of Manlius Village, who used it while he continued in the business. Mr. David Hinsdale found a *nest* of brass kettles, the largest of which would hold two pails full, and the smallest about three pints. They were all bailed, ready for use, and some of the smaller ones were used in Dr. Western's family, and Mr. Hinsdale's family, for several years. The larger ones, being on the outside, were considerably corroded by time and exposure, and were unfit for use. When found, they were nearly buried under the roots of a large tree.

The bones of a man were found on the surface, partially covered, and with them part of a case of surgical instruments, much corroded by rust. On the late Dr. Western's farm, could be distinctly traced the remains of a small fortification, with a burying place. One grave was opened, in which were the remains of thirteen men. One of the skulls taken from it had been perforated by a bullet, which was found within it. Another skull found in this grave was very much larger than its fellows; the under jaw would fit completely outside of a common man's, and it is said that the other bones were of corresponding gigantic dimensions. A vise and other blacksmith's tools were found here, as well as gate hinges and many trinkets like those already enumerated. Not far from this last, on the farm of the late John Clapp, at an early day were plainly traceable, the lines of an earthen fortification. Sundry articles, such as musket balls, gun barrels, axes, &c.,

have been found made from a material it over, well all resembling were plowed heavy, and several inches in a very good impression of the property been buried

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have been found upon this ground. The axes were usually made from a straight bar of iron, the eye formed by bending it over, welding it down and hammering out an edge; not at all resembling any tool now in common use. Near this place were plowed up, several years since, six large, very deep, heavy, and broad rimmed pewter platters. They were found several inches below the surface, one within another; they are in a very good state of preservation now and plainly bear the impression of the British coat of arms; probably were once the property of a party of English traders and may have been buried there as a place of safety.

In felling a large pine tree for shingles on Mr. Hibbard's farm, in 1820, after cutting in about a foot, the mark of an ax was found, and also a burned spot, the size of a man's hand or larger. The probability is, that the tree had been "boxed" to obtain turpentine, and when the ancient settlement was broken up, the turpentine had been burned out. From appearances, about one hundred and seventy years must have passed away since the ax and fire had set their mark upon this tree. All had grown up solid, and there was no outward appearance of former work upon the tree. On Mr. David Hinsdale's farm, under a large pine stump, was a heap of ashes and cinders, from which the boys in the neighborhood used to extricate almost every variety of Indian relic.

Near Mr. Hinsdale's house, when the land was first occupied, and before the plow began its work, there were numerous circular elevations made of stones, some twelve or fourteen feet in diameter, and about eighteen inches high. They were arranged in regular rows, some two or three rods apart, and were probably the foundations of cabins, which had been once erected on this ground, which must from their numbers and extent formed a considerable village. Among the curious relics preserved by Mr. Hinsdale, is a pad-lock of triangular shape, about three inches on a side. It is almost destroyed by rust, but it is a singular piece of mechanism, and must in its day have been quite a formidable opponent to the progress of thieves. He has a knife which has withstood the

rust and ravages of exposure and time better than any thing yet found. The steel must be of the finest quality, and high tempered, and might now be used as well as ever if it was provided with a handle. He has numerous beads, specimens of wampum, ornaments of red pipe-stone, medals, rings, crosses, &c. &c., which are well worth the attention of the curious. Several brass crescents have been found bearing the inscription, "*Roi de France et Dieu.*" These were probably used for nose and ear jewels. Corn hills were abundant near all the places bearing the marks of occupancy before the plow leveled them, and even now in the forests they are to be found, but not so frequently as in former times. The art of making maple sugar was undoubtedly known to the Indians, for the early settlers all agree that the maple trees in this region bore evident marks of having been tapped. Ax marks were often found six or eight inches from the bark, many of the trees being hollow, caused by frequent incisions. Even the marks made by the rude gouges of the natives were sometimes made visible in the operation of clearing off forests.

These places of defense and burial were very numerous in the township of Pompey. There are not less than fifteen which have been pointed out to us, and which we have visited. They are scattered through several of the neighboring towns. We might multiply accounts of these relics without end, but enough has already been said, we hope, to attract the attention of searchers after antiquarian truth, and to show that this interesting section was once partially peopled by Europeans, (probably French, long since the discovery of America by Columbus,) whose history is obscure, and can only be imperfectly unraveled by judicious comparisons and plausible conjecture.

Most of the grounds before noted, undoubtedly have been the scenes of hard fought battles, after which the country was probably deserted by the remnant (if any) of whites who once kept their trading establishments here. Villages to a considerable extent once covered these hills, and the fate of their inhabitants is, and probably for ever will be wrapped in mystery. When, or by what civilized men these fortifications

were built, it is a doubtful veil. The traditions and traditions of architects are mute. Indian grounds have a horror of a very rare instance of ancient forts and their exclamations.

By comparison under our observation the imposing ways attached to them they adapted to the earnest design among the designing men familiar with the ruins were erected defense of sufficient government. It had always been and controlling military posts ring the first these were co years immediately

The Dutch "Maquas," during New-Netherland ascendancy, the residences among the country, although the New-England to engage all of

were built, it were vain for us to inquire; obscurity draws her doubtful veil over the whole, and we dimly see in the faded traditions and chronicles of the past, that these were the works of architects not barbarian, at a period not exceedingly remote. Indian tradition still keeps alive the fact that these grounds have been the theatre of blood; and such is their abhorrence of scenes once enacted here, that except in a few very rare instances, they do not visit the regions near the ancient forts and burying grounds. "*Ote-queh-sa-he-eh*" is their exclamation—" 'Tis the field of blood."

By comparing facts and circumstances as they have fallen under our observation with other historical data, and considering the importance the early French colonists of Canada always attached to the Indian trade, the readiness with which they adapted themselves to Indian manners and habits, and the earnest desire of the Jesuits to establish the Romish religion among them, it may not be unreasonable to suppose, that designing men pushed their way here, and made themselves familiar with the country and its resources, long before colonies were established, and individual enterprise may have erected defenses for security, long before they were considered of sufficient importance to claim protection from their government. It should also be borne in mind, that the French had always cherished the design of absolutely monopolizing and controlling all the trade of the Iroquois. Colonies and military posts were established at Quebec and Montreal, during the first twelve years of the seventeenth century, and these were considerably increased during the twenty-five years immediately succeeding.

The Dutch also had opened a channel of trade with the "Maquas," during the period that they held possession of New-Netherlands; but it does not appear, that during their ascendancy, their traders or people formed any permanent residences among the Indian nations west of the Mohawks' country, although the trade was considered lucrative. And the New-England people it is presumed, had troubles enough to engage all of their attention at home, in the protracted and

exhausting wars which occurred during the infancy of their settlements. So that it is but reasonable to infer, that the early French adventurers succeeded in so far winning the favor and affections of the Iroquois, as to be allowed to intrench themselves strongly within their territory, as early as 1640 or 1650, and that these ruins now so famous as antiquarian relics in our county, were the works of their hands.

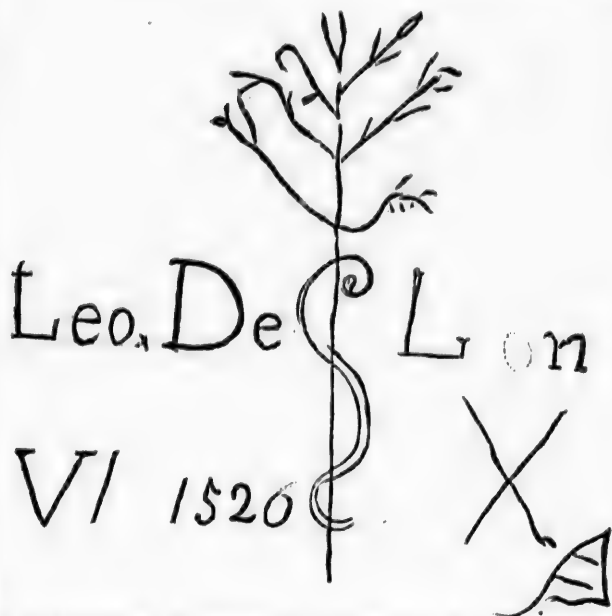
The most interesting and important relic of by-gone days, and the one which has attracted the most attention, and elicited the most speculative opinions in this region, undoubtedly is the celebrated stone found by Mr. Philo Cleveland on his farm, since occupied by the late Mr. Anson Sprague. It is about fourteen inches long by twelve inches broad and eight inches thick; a very heavy, hard, oval shaped stone, evidently a boulder, much worn, and from outward appearances, granitic, but perhaps approaching nearer to gneiss than granite; on it in the centre, is rather rudely engraved the figure of a tree with a serpent climbing it. (*See the annexed cut.*)

Of course the interpretation would be materially different. It was probably designed as a sepulchral monument, and may have been executed on or near the place where it was found.

The following brief history of this singular relic may not be wholly uninteresting. Mr. Cleveland was picking stones in his field, preparatory to making a meadow, in the summer of 1820 or 1821. It was on a moist piece of ground and toward evening, at the close of his day's labors, he raised the stone with his iron bar and turned it on its edge. Mr. C. being weary, leaned against a stump near by, with his hands resting on the top of the bar. While musing in that position, with his eyes fixed upon the stone, he observed something remarkable about it; and upon taking a nearer view, discovered some of the characters and letters above described. He removed it to a pile of stones not far distant, and at the time thought but little of it. Several days afterward he made another visit to the stone, when he found that the rain had washed the dirt clean from it, and the rude engraving was much more distinctly to be seen. This induced him to invite some

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of his neighbors to examine it, whereupon it was decided to remove it to a blacksmith's shop at Watervale, a small settlement near by. It remained there six months or more, and became the subject of much talk and speculation at the time.

Every person who came to the shop, would of course examine the stone, take a horse nail or old file and scrape all the cracks, seams and carvings, giving it somewhat the appearance of new work. The stone was found with the inscription downward, about one-third buried. It is not at all probable that Mr. Cleveland or any of the persons who first saw the stone in the field or at the shop, could have designed or executed the carvings; besides, there are many persons now living who would bear testimony to its authenticity. It was subsequently removed to Manlius Village, and was visited by several distinguished gentlemen of science, most of whom were disposed to admit that it was genuine. It remained in this village nearly a year, and was finally deposited in the

Museum of the Albany Institute, now under the care of Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, where it still remains an object both of speculation and curiosity; and so far as the writer of this is informed, it is admitted to be an authentic memorial of antiquity. The stone and inscription are subjects highly interesting to the lovers of antiquarian lore, and to the curious student.

An attempt to account for, decipher and satisfactorily explain so singular a relic, might seem arrogant in the extreme. A few words will suffice, when we reflect that Mexico had been fully explored and settled by Spaniards previous to 1521, and that those people always manifested an insatiable thirst for gold. Gaspar Cotereal, a Portuguese, had explored nearly the whole coast of North America, in 1501. The fishing grounds of Newfoundland were well known and occupied by the French, as early as 1505. The French navigator, Verrazzini, faithfully examined the shores of the United States, in 1525. De Soto's memorable campaign commenced in 1539 and ended in 1542. He penetrated as far north as the 36th degree of north latitude, and explored both sides of the Mississippi for several leagues. During his travels, it is said he fell in with a party of northern Indians, who had with them a Spaniard taken from the party of Narvaez, who had proceeded over much of Florida, ten years before. When these facts are taken into consideration, and the extreme interest then felt by all classes of men, in the development of the resources of the new world, the avidity with which daring adventurers sought the most distant and imaginary sources of wealth; and the avarice, cupidity and desperation of these men, it may not appear incredible, that a party of Spaniards, either stimulated by the spirit of adventure, or allured by the love of gold, or driven by some rude blast of misfortune, may have visited this region, lost one of their number by death, and erected this rude stone with its simple inscription as a tribute to his memory, as early as the year 1520.

On the hill, about one mile and a half south of Delphi, on lot number one hundred, Pompey, are the ruins of an old fort

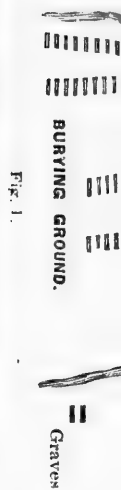
and burying is situated on a deep ravine and unite on an angular, or north. The point, and a mound or base, defense was to be traced through and distinctly where a pick distinctly visible and beneath the appearance of a pile of a post to decay closure was of ous, consisting ash trees, bushes. In one corner a shop having been have been found ders and a depot were found en quantity of purchased instantly crumpled short distance ground, which this ground, from is that the corps west, and the north the feet of the near together, view of these skeletons entombed to illu



and burying place, occupying about eight acres of land. It is situated on an elevated piece of ground, surrounded by a deep ravine made by two small streams, which pass around it and unite on the north, making the form of the elevation triangular, or more in shape, like a flat-iron with its point to the north. The principal gateway and entrance was at the north point, and a smaller one on the south side. There was a mound or bastion in front of it. The area of this place of defense was enclosed with a ditch and pickets, which can now be traced throughout nearly the whole circumference, as plain and distinctly as if but recently abandoned. At every place where a picket had stood, a slight depression in the earth is distinctly visible. In one instance, a large tree had fallen, and beneath its roots a cavity was exposed, which had every appearance of having, at some previous time, been the receptacle of a post over which the tree had grown, perhaps one hundred and fifty or two hundred years, and left the artificial post to decay beneath its trunk. The timber within this enclosure was of smaller growth than that immediately contiguous, consisting of dwarf plumb trees, thorns, small maple and ash trees, bushes, &c. The ground was covered with grass. In one corner of the fort, were evident marks of a blacksmith's shop having been once in full operation there, for various tools have been found belonging to the trade, and also a bed of cinders and a deposit of charcoal. Beneath one of these piles were found *en cache*, a quantity of corn, among which was a quantity of pumpkin or squash seeds, charred, which almost instantly crumbled to dust upon being exposed to the air. A short distance to the south of the fort is the main burying ground, which is quite extensive. One of the peculiarities of this ground, from all others in which we have had knowledge, is that the corpses are buried, one row with their heads to the west, and the next row with their heads to the east, so that the feet of the two rows were towards each other, and very near together, with the arms folded across the breast. Many of these skeletons have at different times been removed, disinterred to illustrate science and adorn the cabinets of the cu-

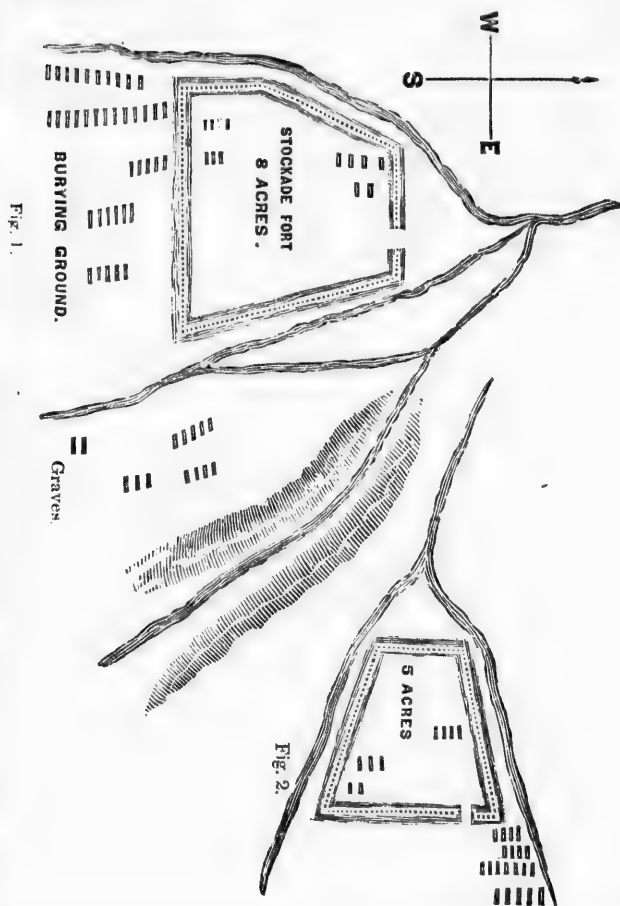
*rious.* The skeletons taken from here, have usually been of a size averaging far above that of common men. Several have exceeded seven feet. Many curious trinkets have been disinterred with these bones, such as arrow-heads, axes, knives, gun-barrels, beads, glass and earthen ware, &c. &c., similar to like named articles found at other places of defense in this vicinity. Under the head of one of these skeletons, which had been removed from its resting place in 1814, was found a large flat stone, and upon that a plate of lead, which had become completely oxydized, and upon exposure to the air crumbled to dust. Near this head was found an ink horn and a curiously wrought pen, made of one of the small spurs of a buck's horn, from which it was concluded at the time that the subject must have been a man of education, and his occupation that of a secretary or scribe. Within the fort was a large stone about four feet square, upon which were several furrows in regular lines, two or three inches apart, an inch deep, extending nearly across the stone, similar to those on a like kind of stone near the fortification on lot number thirty-three, on the east side of the Hollow. Whether these are significant of any thing, or only the work of fancy, we have not been able to determine. It is supposed by some to be a resort for sharpening tools, implements, &c., which would seem probable enough, were it not that the stones contain no grit, and the lines are perfectly regular and similar to each other. The indentations denoting the position of the posts or pickets in this work, are about four feet apart, and undoubtedly the interstices were filled with saplings interwoven, so as to make the whole a firm and substantial work of aboriginal defense. The palisades were set in the bottom of a ditch, which the early settlers say was in some places six feet deep, when they first saw it forty or forty-five years ago. This work is mainly now on land which has not been cleared. This work is represented by figure one in the cut. About a mile west from this is the remains of another work of similar character, and two miles north of Delphi, in the town of Cazenovia, on lands owned by Mr. William Atwell, is another, which is represent-

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ed in the cut figure two. So common are works of this description in this neighborhood, and so extensive are the depositories of the dead, that the most undoubted evidence exists that a numerous population must have, at some prior period, inhabited here.



There is another site of an ancient fortification on a farm owned by a Mr. Sheldon, lately owned by Mr. Elihu Barber, about one mile north of Delphi, on the west side of the Hol-

low. The position, appurtenances, &c., of this locality, so nearly resemble the one just before mentioned, that a particular description of it is deemed unnecessary. It is said, however, that when the ground was first plowed a cart or carriage wheel was turned up nearly entire, a circumstance which has not occurred we believe in any other locality. Hills of corn were once distinctly traceable at intervals from one of these forts to the other, nearly the whole distance, which proves this neighborhood to have been cleared up at an early day, as the trees now occupying this ground are supposed to be at least two hundred years old, large and uniform in size, so close together as not to admit at all of cultivation between them.

Under a very large pine tree, which had been upturned by the wind, on the farm occupied by Mr. James Scoville, was discovered a large bed of charcoal, which must have been deposited there, judging from the size of the tree, at least two hundred years before. On his farm, also, was an extensive burying ground, where human bones of extraordinary dimensions, have been exhumed.

Mr. William Haskins, who was the fifth inhabitant in the township of Pompey, on lot number thirteen, in 1792, says that in first plowing the lands, almost every variety of implement used in agriculture and the common arts, was found in that neighborhood. They consisted of knives, supposed to be of French manufacture, axes, with the English stamp, gun-barrels, some of them with a portion of the stock remaining, abundance of ship-spikes, pump-hooks, a spy-glass, trammel-hooks and chains, &c. In one instance a large quantity of musket balls were plowed up by the side of a rock. The remains of a wheel barrow, with the irons entire, also anvils and vises, unfinished gun-barrels and gun-locks, hand-saws and files, fragments of church bells, &c. On this ground the graves were arranged with great regularity, side by side, in rows of ten or fifteen rods in extent; in the vicinity were other groups of graves, but not in regular order. Upon examination the body appears to have been enclosed in a wooden or bark box. In one grave was found two glass bottles. In plowing, frag-

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ments of glass bottles, earthen and china ware were found, and a stone, cut in imitation of a watch.

There is a locality in the town of Cazenovia, Madison County, near the line of Onondaga, on lot thirty-three, township of Pompey, called the "*Indian Fort*." It is about four miles south-easterly from Manlius Village, situated on a slight eminence, which is nearly surrounded by a deep ravine, the banks of which are quite steep and rocky. The ravine is in shape like an ox-bow, made by two streams, which pass nearly around it and unite. Across this bow, at the opening, was an earthen wall running south-east and north-west, and when first noticed by the early settlers, was four or five feet high, straight, with something of a ditch in front, from two to three feet deep. Within the enclosure may be ten or twelve acres of land. A part of this ground, when first occupied in these latter times, was called "*the Prairie*," and is noted now among the old men as the place where the first battalion training was held in the county of Onondaga. But that portion near the wall, and in front of it, has recently (some six years ago) been cleared of a heavy growth of black oak timber. Many of the trees were large, and were probably one hundred and fifty or two hundred years old. Some were standing *in* the ditch, and others *on the top* of the embankment. There is a burying place *within* the enclosure. The plow has already done much towards leveling the wall and ditch; still they can be easily traced the whole extent. A few more plowings and harrowings, and no vestige of it will remain. There are numerous specimens of dark brown pottery found upon this ground now, and almost every variety of Indian relic has been found about here, some of which are held in very high estimation by the owners. One fact will apply to this locality, that does not we believe to any other of a similar kind. Two cannon balls, of about three pounds weight, were found in this vicinity, showing that light cannon were used, either for defense, or in the reduction of this fortification.

There is a large rock, in the ravine on the south, on which are inscribed the following characters, thus, IIIIX, cut three-

quarters of an inch broad, nine inches long, three-fourths of an inch deep, perfectly regular, and the lines straight. Whether it was a work of fancy, or had significance, we have not been able to determine. On the site of the village of Cazenovia, we have been informed, there was a fort or embankment. Some persons say it was "*roundish*," others that it was "*angular with sides at right angles*." Recollections respecting it are very imperfect. Many relics have been found here, indicating an earlier occupancy than those usually found in this county. This was on the Oneidas' territory. There is a singular coincidence in the location of the fortifications enumerated, which we have never observed until a recent visit. They are nearly all, if not quite all, situated on land rather elevated above that which is immediately contiguous, and surrounded, or nearly so, by deep ravines, so that these form a part of the fortifications themselves. At one of these, (on the farm of David Williams, in Pompey,) the banks on either side are found to contain bullets of lead, as if shot across at opposing forces. The space between, may be about three or four rods, and the natural cutting twenty or twenty-five feet deep. This goes far to prove the care these architects had in selecting the most favorable situations for defense, and the fear and expectation they were in of attacks. We are of opinion that the fortifications in this neighborhood are not more ancient than the period of the French settlement of missionaries among the Onondagas, during the early part of the seventeenth century. But the more we investigate this subject, the more we are convinced that there were many more of the French established here among the Indians by far, than has been generally supposed, and their continuance with them longer, for it was a leading feature in the policy of the early French Governors of Canada, and of the French nation, not only to christianize the natives by the introduction of missionaries among them, but also to colonize their country. The nature of the articles found, utensils of farmers and mechanics, hoes, axes, horse-shoes, hammers, blacksmiths' tools, &c., go to prove that agriculture and the mechanic arts, were practiced

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somewhat extensively during their sojourn. The Indian name by which the country in and about Pompey was anciently known, we think goes to substantiate this fact, Ote-ge-ga-jake—an open place, with much grass, an opening, or prairie. The timber in many places here, has a vigorous growth; and although large, there is a uniformity in the size and age, which shows that it has all grown up since the occupancy, because under the trees are not only found relics, but among them, in many instances, corn-hills can be traced at considerable distances. That the appearance of corn-hills in a wilderness, after a lapse of so many years may appear less strange, it may be well to remark, that the Indian mode of planting, formerly, varied materially from that of the whites. Their manner was to plant three hills near each other, and raise quite a mound around them, and plant the same mound for a series of years, and these mounds are the corn-hills noticed at the present day.

The presentation of medals to the Indians was undoubtedly a very common practice with the missionaries and traders. A valuable cross of gold was several years ago found in the west part of Pompey, and was sold for thirty dollars. The significant "I. H. S."\* was upon it. Numbers of crucifixes and crosses have been found. Brass crosses are frequently found, with those letters, and the initials of the latin title put upon the cross at the crucifixion, "I. N. R. I.,"† and so are medals of the same metal. One was recently found, on the farm of David Hinsdale, about the size of a shilling piece. The figure of a Roman Pontiff, in a standing position, in his hand a crosier, surrounded with this inscription: "*B. virg. sin. P. origi. con.*" which we have ventured to write out, "*Beata virgo sine Peccato originali concepta*," or as we might say in English, "The blessed virgin conceived without original sin." On the other side was a representation of a serpent, and two nearly naked figures, looking intently upon it. This one is very per-

\* Jesus Hominum Salvator, or Jesus, the saviour of men.

† Jesus Nazarenus, Rex Judearum, or Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.



fect in all its parts, and the letters as plain as if struck but yesterday. It was undoubtedly compressed between dies. It is oval in shape, and bored that it might be suspended from the neck.

A silver medal was found, near Eagle Village, about the size of a dollar, but a little thinner, with a ring or loop at one edge, to admit a cord by which it might be suspended. On one side appears in relief, a somewhat rude representation of a fortified town, with several tall steeples rising above its buildings, and a citadel from which the British flag is flying; a river broken by an island or two, occupies the foreground, and above, along the upper edge of the medal, is the name Montreal. The initials D. C. F., probably of the manufacturer, are stamped below. On the opposite side, which was originally made blank, are engraved the words CANECYA, Onondagoes, which are doubtless the name and nation of the red ruler on whose dusky breast this ornament was displayed, as a valuable token of friendship of some British Governor of New-York or Canada, to an influential ally among the Five Nations. There is no date on this or any other of the medals. But this must be at least older than the Revolution, and probably more than a hundred and fifty snows have whitened the field, where the plow disinterred it, since the chief, whose name it has preserved, was laid to rest with his fathers.

In July, 1840, was found, on the farm of Mr. William Campbell, by his son, on lot number three, La Fayette, a silver medal, about the size of a dollar, and nearly as thick. On one side is a device, surmounted by an angel on the wing, stretching forward with its left hand, looking down upon those below with a resolute, determined and commanding countenance. Far in the background, is a lofty ridge of mountains. Just beneath and away in the distance, is seen an Indian village or town, towards which the angel is steadily and earnestly pointing. Above this overhangs a slight curtain of cloud or smoke. Between the village and the mountain are scattering trees, as if an opening had just been made in the forest; nearer are seen various wild animals sporting gaily. In bold-

er relief and pilgrims, with tenances, his gentle ascent the place of wheel carriage right is a far commercial warfare. The whole is GEHE AU V. 1, and at On the opposite meridian splend represented domestic animals and other the costume as if in animals by various animals right is represented stands a vend extended, as habitation. tion: VND XII., V. 2, and SIEWIEDE

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The small Book of Genesis on the mountains. Our strictly literal calleth Abraham promiseth him

er relief are seen Europeans, in the costume of priests and pilgrims, with staves, exhibiting by their gestures and countenances, hilarity, gladness and joy, winding their way up the gentle ascent towards the mountain, decreasing in size from the place of departure, till lost from view. Among them are wheel carriages and domestic animals, intermixed. On the right is a fair representation of a cottage, and a spacious commercial ware-house, against which are leaning sheaves of grain. The whole is surrounded by the following inscription in Dutch : GEHE AUS DEINEM VATTER LAND, 1 b. M., XII., V. 1, and at the bottom across, LASST HIER DIEGVTER. On the opposite side there is a figure of the sun shining in meridian splendor, casting its noon-tide rays over a civilized town, represented by churches, stores, dwellings, &c., with various domestic animals, and numerous persons engaged in husbandry and other pursuits. In bolder relief stand Europeans in the costume of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, engaged as if in animated and joyful conversation and greetings, and by various attitudes, manifesting happiness and joy. On the right is represented a section of a church, at the door of which stands a venerable man, with head uncovered, with his hands extended, as if welcoming these persons to a new and happy habitation. This side is surrounded by the following inscription : VND DV SOLLT EIN SEEGEN SEYN, 1 b. Mos., XII., V. 2, and across the bottom as follows : GOTT GIBT SIEWIEDER.

The interpretation of the first side is—Get thee out from thy country and friends, thou shalt be truly a blessing. On the reverse side, which should be read in connection—Leaving thy goods behind thee, God will restore them to thee again.

The small letters and figures on the right, refer to the 1st Book of Genesis, XII chap., verses 1st and 2d, which inscription on the medal was taken from those verses in the Dutch Bibles. Our translation is very excellent, though perhaps not strictly literal, (which see.) It is in this chapter that God calleth Abram, and blesseth him with a promise of Christ; promiseth him the land of Canaan in a vision, to which he de-

parted with his kindred and friends and servants, and there builded an altar unto the Lord. Abram's first step was obedience. He left all and took possession, with his household, of the land of Canaan; and it is remarkable that the first instance of God's favor towards him was to renew his promise, to give him the whole land of Canaan, in place of the possessions he left behind him, and to make his posterity a mighty nation.

This medal must have been none other than one given by his countrymen in Father-land, to a devoted Missionary, with a party of followers intending to spend their days in America, the land of promise, the fruitful Canaan of modern times, who in the goodness of his heart, bent on doing the work of his divine master, at some early day wandered into the wilds of the Onondagas, set up the cross, (the Bethel of Abram,) and left this memento of his mission in the hand of some Neophyte, which by some unaccountable circumstance has been buried, we know not how long, but now comes to light to prove to us, that the aborigines of our country were a people whose spiritual welfare was regarded as sincerely by the Dutch as by their more ambitious and ostentatious neighbors, the French. It is much to be regretted, that on this and all the other medals, there is no date whereby to establish their particular period of antiquity. This is by far the most singular and interesting relic of the kind which has come under our notice, and goes positively to establish a hitherto doubtful point, to wit, the early establishment of missionaries by the Dutch among the Onondagas.\*

The fragments of a bell have lately come under our notice found on the farm of Isaac Jobs, which when whole, would have weighed probably one hundred and fifty or two hundred pounds. The metal is very fine, and from appearance, this article must have been of considerable value. Time and exposure have not changed it in the least. When found, some

\* Quere. May not this medal be a relic of the Zeisberger mission of 1750.

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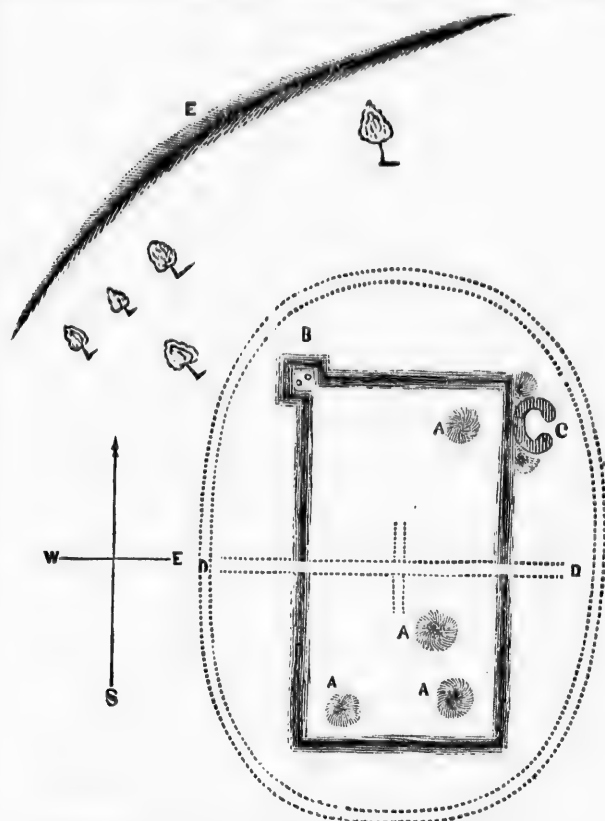
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twenty years since, it was broken up, and the pieces found were enough to make it nearly entire.

On the farm of Mr. Isaac Keeler, were the remains of an ancient fort and burying ground. When Mr. Keeler first settled here, the site of the old fort was an extensive opening of about fifty acres, bearing grass, with clumps of wild plumb trees, and a few scattering forest trees. Mr. Keeler has left some of these plumb trees standing, and has cultivated them, and they yield fruit inferior to none. On this opening it is said, was paraded the first regiment of militia that was organ-



E, ditch—B, parapet—A, mounds—C, look out—D, palisades.

ized in the county of Onondaga, commanded by Major Moses De Witt. This ancient remnant of a fort is on lot number three, township of Pompey, and was formerly owned by Moses De Witt. At that time the outlines of this fort were distinctly traceable. It had been enclosed with palisades of cedar, and contained some ten acres of land. The plan was a plain parallelogram, divided across the shortest way through the middle, by two rows of palisades running east and west. The space between the rows was about twelve feet. At the north-west corner was an isolated bastion and an embrasure. When first brought under cultivation by a Mr. William Bends, he plowed up many of the stumps of palisades of cedar which had been burned off level with the ground. Within the southern division of the fort were several mounds, the principal one of which was about four feet high, rising on a base of about fifteen feet diameter, composed chiefly of ashes, in which were found many beads of the size of bullets, and many other trinkets of various sizes and patterns, made of red pipe-stone. Several hundred pounds of old iron have been gleaned from this spot, consisting of axes, hatchets, gun-barrels and locks, coarse files, horse-shoes, large spikes, hammers and blacksmiths' tools. The smaller mounds principally contained charred corn, many bushels of which have been plowed up. At a distance of about forty rods north of the north-west corner of the fort was a ditch perhaps forty rods long, running north by west; some parts of it three feet deep, others less; about six feet in breadth; undoubtedly it originally was much deeper. From present appearances, it was entirely disconnected with the fort; but time has made such alterations with it and the grounds around, that at this late day, it is impossible to conjecture for what purpose it was originally intended. The situation of this ancient fort was on an elevation of land, gradually rising for nearly a mile in every direction; and at the time of its occupancy, several hundreds of acres of land in the vicinity must have been cleared, giving to the garrison an extensive prospect. The grounds occupied by the fort are about fifty rods east of Mr. Keeler's house, and are unsur-

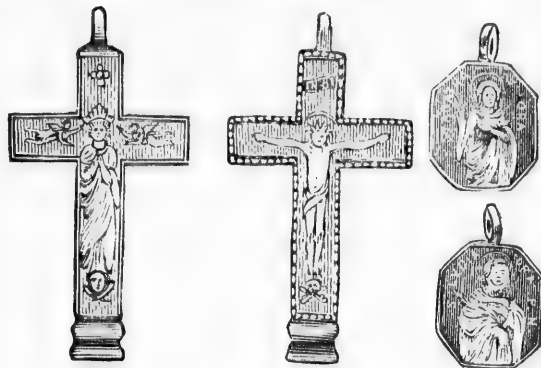
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passed by any in the county for fertility and beauty of location. Here in ancient times, undoubtedly have been marshaled with nodding plume and rattling cuirass, the troops of the French side by side with the dusky Onondagas, singularly contrasting their polished European weapons with the hickory bows and flint arrows of their allies ; and here too have they mingled the war-whoop of the savage, with the *Vive le Roi de France* ; while the Black Robes with their trembling neophytes, chaunted in ecstacy, *Venite Exultemus* and *Jubilare Deo*. Seasons of joy and festivity, of worship and praise to God, passed for years over this land ; the trader gathered riches from the wild forester, and the warrior fresh laurels wherewith to entwine his brow. At length a storm arises, the priest, the warrior and the chasseur foresee its portentous gloom, too late to flee the tempest, and too feeble to withstand the shock. They fell victims to its fury, and these few relics are the only evidences of their fate. Fragments of broken pottery, apparently used for culinary purposes, are abundantly found on this location. Pipes, flint arrow-heads, stone hatchets, mortars and pestles, gouges &c., are also found. In 1813, Mr. Isaac Keeler felled an oak tree near the site of the fort, measuring three feet in diameter. In preparing the tree for the fire, a leaden bullet was found covered by one hundred and forty-three cortical layers. It was about four inches from the heart of the tree, which must have been small when the bullet was fired. From calculation, the time which has elapsed since the bullet assumed its position, must be over one hundred and forty-five years, making the date of its lodgment, A. D. 1667.

Mr. Keeler had in his possession a portion of a brass dial plate, plowed up by him on the site of this fort ; on it are engraved in fair Roman characters, I. II. III. IV. V. VI. VII. VIII. ; also a brass compass-box, from which the needle had been removed, and its place supplied with vermilion, a pigment highly prized by the Indians ; and another more perfect one beautifully wrought, having on one side a represen-

tation of our Saviour, and on the other, Mary the mother of Jesus as represented in the following cuts :



Also, an octagonal brass medal nearly an inch in diameter, having a figure with the name "*St. Agatha*," and the Latin word "*Ora*," a part of the Gregorian chaunt. Also a silver medal half an inch long, with a figure inscribed "*St. Lucia*," and the same fragment of a chaunt. Mr. Keeler has also an old balance beam eighteen inches long, which perhaps has often tested the weight of the foot of a Frenchman against the red man's pound of beaver; for, like the ancient Dutch traders at Albany, it was said the French made a foot weigh a pound. Also a medal of lead, oval shaped, an inch and a half long, with the figure of a man suspended by his outstretched hands, supposed to be a representation of our Saviour on the cross, and a figure of a serpent. On the opposite side is a figure of a man in a sitting posture, resembling the characteristic position of the native prophets; or as some interpret it, the devil—an emblem that Christianity will destroy all evil. An iron horse shoe, steel corked, with three elongated nail holes on each side. The peculiar workmanship of this shoe, its clumsiness and spread, and the little skill which it evinces in the making, denotes it clearly to be the workmanship of a Canadian blacksmith, precisely like those witnessed at the present day in that country, and intended

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only for the unfarrired hoofs of the Canadian horse. It is the roughest specimen of the craft that can be imagined. This is a specimen of several which have been exhumed in this country, all of which are of the rudest workmanship. Several years ago a curious brass plate probably used for a shield, was plowed up; it was oval shaped, and about eighteen inches in diameter the longest way. Here are also found sword guards, fragments of the blades, gun locks, surgeons' instruments, saws, bracelets for the wrists three inches broad, of brass highly wrought, and many other curious articles.

In many places within this fort and in its vicinity, were found numerous pits for hiding *en cache*, corn and other articles by the occupants from their enemies, or as a temporary place of deposit during their hunting excursions. Skeletons have been found in these places of deposit, some of them of extraordinary size. The jaws of some of them would fit easily over that of any common man. Mr. Keeler has a portion of a jaw in which are double teeth at least one-third larger than those of an ordinary man.

On Mr. Samuel A. Keene's land, are mounds containing human bones; also burying grounds all along on the west side of the creek, on Mr. Jeremiah Gould's land, upon which are found almost every variety of Indian relic. On the grounds of Mr. Keene have been found several strings of very fine glass beads, of red, blue and white colors, and others striped and variegated; also numerous little bells, such as are sometimes used by the Romish priesthood. Fish hooks have also been picked up in the vicinity of the old fort, and steels for producing fire with tinder. Mr. Keene has a brass compass box, screw top, and a little brass kettle which holds about a pint, all plowed up on his land. Brass crosses have frequently been plowed up, and some of the most perfect and highest finished ones, have over the head of the Saviour, the letters I. N. R. I. Most of the crosses found in other places have the letters I. H. S.

But the most rare and singular relic which has come to our observation, is an iron bombshell, about the size of a six

pound ball, weighing two and three-fourths pounds. This was plowed up on the land of Mr. Keene, and is believed to be the only article of the kind which has been found. Cannon balls of small size have been found in the eastern part of Pompey.

These relics certainly prove that light cannon were in use at these places of fortification. From the great number of gun barrels, crosses, axes, &c., found about here, it is certain that armed bodies of men in considerable numbers, have occupied these grounds; and that from the mutilated condition of the guns, the broken axes, jammed kettles, and injured state of every thing contributing to defense and comfort, they must have been exterminated or forcibly driven away. That these are the remains of the French Jesuits and traders of the seventeenth century, there is not a doubt. Everything goes to substantiate the fact. Enough of their history has been related in the foregoing pages, to settle the question beyond dispute. The forts, relics, utensils, mounds, *caches*, burying grounds, &c., are similar in every direction, and bear marked evidence of former occupancy by man in a civilized state, and in a former age. Like evidences occur also in De Witt, Camillus and Manlius. Were all the records in Christendom totally destroyed, there still remains the most unquestionable evidences of the presence of civilization in this land, in the metallic arms, implements and utensils of the soldier, the artizan, the mechanic and farmer, succeeding a more rude era, in which arts, agriculture and war were carried on with implements of wood, stone, clay and shells.

**LA FAYETTE.**—This town was organized in April, 1825, and was taken from the towns of Pompey and Onondaga. It was named after the Marquis De La Fayette.

That portion of La Fayette, taken from Onondaga, was purchased by the State, of the Onondaga Indians, in 1817, and in 1822 was sold to the white settlers. There are now, within the bounds of the town, six thousand four hundred acres of land, belonging to the Indians, not taxable. The town

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contains twenty-eight thousand two hundred acres. It has an elevated ridge running north and south, nearly through the center, with a valley on the east and on the west, extending its whole length. The former is called Sherman Hollow, after James Sherman, and the latter Christian Hollow, after Michael Christian, who was a Revolutionary soldier, and drew lot number eighteen, township of Tully, and was one of the few who enjoyed the fruits of their suffering and toil, by taking possession of the land, for which they served. It is scarcely possible to find more beautiful scenery, than is presented to the view, by looking down upon this hollow, from the high ground along the road, leading from Tully to La Fayette. The distance is just sufficient to obscure imperfections, while its contiguity is such, that its peculiar beauties strike the beholder with the fulness of its grandeur.

\* Some of the first settlers and original inhabitants of this town are as follows: John Wilcox, who lived a little east of the Indian orchard, on "Haskins' Hill," was the first white settler in town, came here in 1791, and located on lot number thirteen, Pompey, and boarded the surveyors who "*lotted*" the townships of Tully, Pompey and Manlius. When the first settlement was made, there was on this lot, an extensive Indian orchard, occupying some twenty acres or more of ground. The trees were somewhat regularly laid out, and at that time were very productive. At an early day, it was a place very much resorted to for its fruit, it then being the only orchard of any note in all the country. People came from many miles around, in Autumn, to the "*old Indian orchard*," for its valuable produce, and the occupant made the sale of it quite a profitable business. This orchard was located on a commanding eminence, now owned by Mr. Cornelius Vandenburg, on the road leading from La Fayette to Jamesville. It overlooks a vast tract of country to the north, and affords one of the most beautiful prospects imaginable. At this time,

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\* The author is indebted to Rev. Geo. E. Delevan for valuable information relative to La Fayette.

the apple trees, once in so high repute, from which the red man gathered his luxurious store in bountiful profusion, are in a state of decay, and like the race who planted them, will soon be numbered among the things that have been.

In 1792, Comfort Rounds settled in La Fayette, about two miles north of the Center. In 1792, William Haskins came on, and gave name to Haskins' Hill. In 1793, came Solomon Owen, who built the brick house in Sherman Hollow, now occupied by Calvin Cole. Ebenezer Hill, now living, came into this town in February, 1795. In 1793, James Sherman settled in, and gave name to the east hollow. He soon after built a saw-mill, the first of the kind in this town, on the Butternut Creek. The next year, Messrs. Isaac and Elias Conklin, moved to this town, and very soon put up a saw-mill, and directly afterwards, a small grist mill, on what is commonly called Conklin's Creek. These mills are now in operation, and owned by Mr. Elias Conklin, and the grist mill is believed to be the first of its kind, in the township of Pompey, erected in 1798. The small but durable stream, on which are these mills, is considered a very valuable one, and finds its way into the Butternut Creek. Below these mills, are three distinct and successive falls, some sixty or eighty rods distant from each other. They are enshrouded by a dense hemlock forest, which renders the scenery somewhat sombre and gloomy, yet it may be considered highly picturesque, if not grand. The several falls are about seventy or eighty feet in height, each; not perpendicular, but just broken enough to add beauty and variety to the rushing cataracts, as they dash their white foam against the ragged rocks below. The stream is quite rapid and somewhat broken, above the mills. The banks and bed of this stream are of brown shale, of little or no use as a building material, and only used for fencing.

In 1794, John Houghtaling, Amaziah Branch, Benjamin June and James Pearce, located in this town. Mr. June was a soldier of the Revolution. His ancestors came from France, he is still living, and receives a pension. Samuel Humph-

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rey, another Revolutionary patriot, also resides in this town, and draws a pension.

In 1794, Samuel Hyatt, Amasa Wright and Reuben Bryan, settled in town. Mr. John A. Bryan, once a member of the New-York Legislature, Assistant Post Master General, under President John Tyler's administration, and *Chargé des Affaires* to Peru, and Auditor of the State of Ohio, now living at Columbus, was his son.

Among the early settlers in the west portion of the town, were Samuel Coleman, Clark Bailey, Nathan Park, Zenas Northway and Ozias Northway, who kept a tavern near the Post Office, Archibald and John Garfield, Graudius Cuddeback, whose widow is a niece of Major Moses De Witt; Wm. Sniffen, Hendrick Upperhousen, a Hessian who was captured from the British army, and John Hill, also a Hessian.

Among the settlers in the south part of the town, were General Isaac Hall, William Alexander, Amos Palmatier, Jacob Johnson, Sen. and Jr., Obadiah Johnson, Elijah Hall, Peter Abbott, Rufus Kinney, Abner Kinney Capt. Joseph C. Howe, who lived on the farm now occupied by H. Cole. Dan'l Danforth, first located in Christian Hollow, in 1798, afterwards bought the farm now occupied by his nephew, Thomas Danforth.

In the northern section of the town, in addition to the names already mentioned, lived Asa Drake, who removed from near Boston. He distinctly recollects hearing the firing at the battle of Bunker Hill. He still survives and speaks of the struggles of the Revolution, and the privations of the wilderness, with a lively interest. Elkanah Hine and Noah Hoyt, lived on the farm now occupied by George Bishop. Joel Canfield, Ezekiel Hoyt, Job Andrews and Minnah Hyatt, were early settlers here. Ebenezer Carr, Calojus Vinell, and Joshua Slocum, lived on the farm now owned by E. V. W. Dox, Esq.; Col. Jeremiah Gould and Isaac Keeler, towards Jamesville.

In the vicinity of La Fayette Square, were Thomas, Seth, Erastus and Sydenham Baker, Joseph Smith, Mr. Paine, Jeremiah Fuller and Dr. Silas Park. Dr. Park's ride as a phy-

sician, was from Liverpool to Port Watson, Cortland County, then Onondaga, and from Skaneateles to Cazenovia. Dan'l Share, an early settler, is still living on a beautiful spot which commands a view of the village and of the valley, stretching towards Fabius. There were also Caleb Green, Joseph Stevens Cole, Paul King, and Orange King, who kept a tavern in a log house, and had for his sign, which was nailed to a tree, "*O. King!*" Joseph Rhoades, Gershom Richardson, Daniel Cole and John Carlisle, were also among the early settlers of this town.

The Columbian (Congregational) Society was organized in 1804. The greater part of the members who formed this society, came from Berkshire and Hampshire Counties, Massachusetts. At an early day, religious meetings were held in private houses, by Mr. Amaziah Branch, a Congregationalist, from Norwich, Connecticut. He had studied for the ministry, but was not licensed to preach. As a man of piety and exemplary deportment, he was greatly respected. The present Congregational Church, was organized by Rev. Benjamin Bell, in October, 1809. This interesting transaction took place at the public house of Stoughton Morse, where the "Temperance House" is now kept. The Church, at this period, consisted of fifteen persons—five males and ten females.

The following gentlemen have officiated as pastors and preachers, since the time of the Rev. Mr. Bell; Rev. Messrs. E. J. Leavenworth, Hopkins, Martin Powell, Childs, Alexander H. Corning, Seth Smally, Abraham K. Barr, Parshall Terry and George E. Delevan.

The Congregational house of worship, was erected 1819 and 1820. In 1844, it was repaired and renovated in modern style. It is located on the plat of ground (one acre) generously given by Capt. Joseph Rhoades and Erastus Baker, Esq. The Methodist Chapel, on the east hill, was erected about the year 1825. There is also a Methodist house of worship, at Cardiff.

Ten or twelve years ago, a chartered high school was established at La Fayette Square, in the brick house, built by Mr.

Asael Smith a dwelling.

The first March, 182 Town Clerk

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Asael Smith, merchant, now occupied by H. G. Andrews, as a dwelling. It flourished a few years and was discontinued.

The first town meeting was held at La Fayette Square, March, 1826, Charles Jackson, Supervisor, Johnson Hall, Town Clerk.

Col. Jeremiah Gould erected the first frame house in the township of Pompey, (now in La Fayette,) in 1800. Isaac Hall built the next in 1801. A Mr. Cheeny kept the first tavern, a little before Orange King. Messrs. Rice and Hill, are said to have been the first merchants at La Fayette Square, 1802 or 1803. In 1801, the State road from Cazenovia to Skaneateles, was laid out through this town. Col. Olcott, the surveyor, was taken suddenly ill, while engaged in the survey, and died at the house of Erastus Baker. About this time, the inhabitants of this retired country, were visited with that dreadful scourge, the small-pox, which in many instances proved fatal.

The soil of this town, is calcareous loam, intermixed with vegetable mold, and unlike many parts of the country the land is arable on the highest hills, and very productive. The air is pure, the scenery delightful, and access to markets and the great thoroughfares convenient. The face of the country is favorable to the enjoyment of health, activity of mind, competence in worldly goods and domestic comfort. There are here no stagnant marshes, no putrid exhalations, no overgrown estates, and none so great temptations to vice as may be found in more thickly settled localities.

No valuable mineral deposit has yet been discovered in this town. Two miles south of Christian Hollow Post Office, a variety of iron ore has been brought to light, but is not considered of much consequence. Lime has been somewhat extensively burned, and may yet prove valuable in agriculture, and for other purposes. The rocks abound in shells and other relics of the diluvian age. On the farm of Dr. C. Williams is a deposit of corals. In the door-yard of Mr. J. G. Doughty, are many petrifications; similiar appearances have been noticed in different parts of the town. On the farm of



Thomas Danforth, are chasms of great depth, supposed to have been produced by an earthquake.

There are several sulphur springs in town emitting sulphureted hydrogen gas, which can be collected in a tumbler and burned by applying a torch. There is one on Chester Baker's land near a pure spring, a few rods west of the centre. One on the land of Elias Rider, in Christian Hollow, which is within a few feet of a pure spring. One on the west side of the Onondaga Creek, which is said to have been considerably agitated a few years ago by an earthquake. Within a few rods of this is a pure spring and a chalybeate spring. There is a sulphur spring on the Indian road towards the council-house, one on Dr. Williams' land, another near Alcott's saw-mill, in Sherman Hollow, and another in a ravine near Calvin Coles'. These springs are sometimes used medicinally. There is a saline spring a few rods east of Ebenezer Hill's residence. To these several springs at an early day, deer used frequently to resort.

The east branch of the Onondaga River rises in Tully, passes through Christian Hollow and Onondaga Village, emptying into Onondaga Lake.

Through Sherman Hollow runs Butternut Creek, which rises in Fabius and Pompey, passing through Jamesville and Orville, uniting with the Limestone and Chittenango Creeks, thence into Oneida Lake.

This town was remarkable for the abundance of its game. Bears, wolves, foxes and wild cats, were every where numerous; and instances are still related of their having been frequently destroyed. They often did mischief among the flocks of the early settlers.

Deer were very numerous, and were often seen in herds of twenty or thirty.

According to the last census, we have the following statistics for La Fayette:—

Number of inhabitants, 2,527. Number of inhabitants subject to military duty, 204; voters, 606; aliens, 36; paupers, 2; children attending common schools, 737; acres of

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improved land, 16,857; grist mills, 4; saw mills, 18; fulling mills, 2; carding machines, 2; asheries, 1; clover mills, 1; tanneries, 2. Churches.—Congregational or Presbyterian, 1; Methodist, 2; common schools, 18; taverns, 5; stores, 4; farmers, 392; merchants, 5; manufacturers, 7; mechanics, 66; clergymen, 2; physicians, 4.

MARCELLUS\* was one of the townships number nine of the Military Tract, and also one of the eleven towns formed at the organization of the county, in 1794. It then comprehended all of the townships of Marcellus and Camillus, and all of the Onondaga and Salt Springs Reservations west of the Onondaga Lake and Creek. At present it contains but about thirty lots of the original township, or about one-tenth of the original town, as at first set off. The first settlements were made in this town in 1794, by William Cobb, who settled on the hill east of Nine Mile Creek. The same year, Cyrus Holcomb settled on the west hill, and two families by the name of Bowen, and one by the name of Cody, settled near Clintonville, and Samuel Tyler settled at Tyler Hollow. A family by the name of Conklin, and one or two others settled the same year in the southern part of the town. A family by the name of Curtis settled at Nine Mile Creek in 1794, but did not remain long. The first permanent settlement there, was made by Dan Bradley and Samuel Rice, in the fall of 1795. They were joined by Dr. Elnathan Beach, in the winter following, who erected the first frame house in town the following summer. It stood near the late dwelling house of Curtis Moses. The second was built by Judge Bradley, and the third by Deacon Rice. In 1806 there were but nine dwelling houses in the village.

These settlements made in different parts of the town prepared the way for others; so that we find a rapid increase of population almost immediately. Among the set-

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\* For the history of the first settlement of this town, the author has been greatly assisted by a manuscript of the Rev. Levi S. Parsons.

tlers on the west hill, were Nathan Kelsey and Thomas Miller. Col. Bigelow Lawrence had eight sons who settled, four on the east hill, and four on the west hill, all within sight of each other. His sons were Joab, Peter, Bigelow, Rufus, Calvin, Jephtha, Levi and Dorastus; and subsequently, Martin Cossit settled in the village, about the year 1798. Samuel Wheadon moved to the south hill as early as 1800. A short time subsequently, Josiah Frost, Philo Goddard, Nathan Healy and Enoch Cowles settled in that neighborhood. At an early period, there settled on the east hill, Caleb Todd, Nathaniel Hillyer and Richard May; and at a still later period, Martin Goddard, Terrence Edson, Reuben Dorchester and William F. Bangs. James C. Millen and his sons, were the first permanent settlers in the north-east section of the town. He and six sons, except one all died within a short time afterwards. The settlement at the falls now called Union Village, was commenced in the fall of 1806, and the paper mill now owned by John Henry, was erected 1807, and the next year a grist and saw mill were erected.

When the early pioneers of this favored town first came on, it was covered with a heavy burden of hard timber, with very little underbrush. The leeks, nettles and wild grass afforded excellent pasturage for cattle, on the upland; but the low land was covered with a gloomy hemlock forest, which presented formidable obstacles to the clearing of the land, and bringing it to a state fit for cultivation. Hence the first settlements were made on the more elevated portions of the town. There was no evidence here as in some other parts of the county, that any part of this town had ever been under cultivation. Here were no Indian fields, no traces of ancient occupancy by a foreign people, or evidence that the soil had ever been pressed by the foot of man, except as a rude hunter in pursuit of his game.

Most of the early settlers of Marcellus were from Massachusetts, some from Connecticut and Vermont. They paid a high regard to religious duties, and great attention to the training of their children in moral and intellectual pursuits.

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The establishment of schools was among their first considerations. Accordingly, we find in the winter of 1796-97, only one year after the settlement had commenced, a school established, and Dan Bradley the teacher. He took a deep interest in the welfare of the young, and hence volunteered his services as a teacher. He was the first male teacher in the township, and taught two successive winters in a log school-house. The summer before, Miss Aseneth Lawrence, daughter of Col. Bigelow Lawrence, taught the first school kept in the town, in the same house. This house was on the east hill. A frame school house was soon after erected on nearly the same ground, and continued to be occupied until 1807; after which, a school-house was erected in the village, and another on the west hill. The early settlers were most of them favorable to religious institutions, and many of them prominent supporters. The people were generally Congregational or Presbyterian, with an occasional Baptist; but all agreed to worship together for a period of about twenty years. As an evidence that the early settlers were favorable to religious institutions, it is worthy of notice, that in 1802, within seven years after the first settlements were made in the village, measures were taken, preparatory to erecting the present house of worship. The building materials were set up at vendue; and among the bidders, we find nearly all the names of the inhabitants of that time. The church was organized October 13th, 1801, and the society was organized under the style and title of the "*Trustees of the Eastern Society of Marcellus*," in May, 1802; Dan Bradley, Martin Cossit, James Millen, Martin Goddard, Thomas North and Nathan Kelsey, Trustees. Their house of worship, still standing and in good repair, was erected in 1803, and was the first house of worship erected in the county. By way of renown, it was then remarked, that it was the *only meeting house between New-Hartford and the Pacific Ocean*, which was literally the fact. Rev. Seth Williston was a Missionary here in 1800, and subsequently, Rev. Caleb Alexander, who organized the society. The following clergymen have filled the pulpit, to wit: Rev.

Messrs. Josediah Bushnell, — Cram, Amasa Jerome, — Robins, Caleb Atwater, Levi Parsons, from 16th September, 1807, and continued with an omission of two years, to 1841—thirty-four years, and Rev. John Tompkins.

*St. John's Church*, (Episcopalian) Marcellus, was organized in 1824, and their church edifice built 1832. A Universalist Society was formed in 1820, under the style and title of "The First Universalist Society of the town of Marcellus;" Bildad Beach, Samuel Johnson, Chester Clark, Trustees. "*First Zion Society in Marcellus*," organized in 1822, at the house of David Holmes; William Newton, Joseph Gilson, Andrew Shephard, David Holmes and Silas Bush, Trustees.

Dr. Elnathan Beach came to this town as a practicing physician, in the winter of 1795-6. He erected the first frame house in town, a year or two after he came. He was born in Cheshire, Connecticut, educated as a physician, and commenced the practice of medicine in his native town, where he obtained the reputation of a judicious and skilful practitioner. Possessing an enterprising spirit, he relinquished an extensive practice, broke away from his friends and early associations, and took up his abode in the wilderness, where he continued the practice of medicine. He entered considerably into public life, was appointed sheriff of Onondaga County in 1799, and held the office till the time of his death. He is represented as being a very active man and zealous in the pursuit of what he deemed a worthy or important object. To his own family he was peculiarly kind and indulgent, and to community, affable and obliging. He was extensively known, and his merits appreciated throughout the county. He died in 1801, in the midst of usefulness, at the age of forty years. affectionately beloved and sincerely lamented as an irreparable loss to the infant settlement.

Nine Mile Creek is the principal and only stream of note in this town. It drains the Otisco Lake, and passes through this town from south to north. It received its name from the fact that it is nine miles from Onondaga, which at the time the first settlements were made at the Creek, was the nearest

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settlement on the east, and nine miles to Buck's, the next settlement west. It is supposed by many that it received its name from its being nine miles long, but this cannot possibly be the case, as it is more than twice that distance in length.

This stream affords great facilities for water power, and is capable of carrying a large amount of machinery. The first erection on this stream was a saw mill, by Samuel Rice and Dan Bradley, in the fall and winter of 1795 and 1796. It stood a little above the present stone mill of Mr. Talbot. It was built at great disadvantage and expense. The inhabitants were so few that the proprietors of the mill had to send to Camillus for help to assist at the raising. It was finally raised after considerable labor, and proved a great help to the community in which it was located. For several years there was no grist mill in the place, and the inhabitants had to go to Manlius, fifteen miles, or to Seneca Falls, twenty-five miles, which usually took two or three days. Mr. May and Mr. Sayles erected a grist mill near the before mentioned saw mill, in 1800, which greatly relieved the people, and for several years it did all the custom work of the town, and part of Onondaga and Camillus. Since this, the increase of machinery and mills has been considerable, and this stream is capable of much further improvement.

In 1796, Dr. Elnathan Beach opened a store in the village, and kept for sale dry goods, groceries and medicines. He continued in trade till the time of his death, in 1801. Lemuel Johnson succeeded Dr. Beach, and built a new store. Deacon Samuel Rice kept the first tavern in town soon after he came on. He was succeeded by General Humphreys, and he by William Goodwin. A Post Office was established at Marcellus 1799, and Dr. Elnathan Beach appointed Post Master. Samuel Tyler was a Justice of the Peace in 1799; perhaps before.

The early records of this town have been destroyed by fire, a thing to be regretted, so that there are no means of knowing who the earliest town officers were. They have no record further back than 1830.

By the act of 1794, we find the first town meeting, ordered to be held at the house of Moses Carpenter, and it is presumed it was so held. The house was about a mile east of the present village of Elbridge. By the record of the Board of Supervisors, we find William Stevens Supervisor from 1794 to 1797; Samuel Tyler, Supervisor in 1797, and Winston Day in 1798. The voters of Marcellus thought it rather a hardship to go down to Camillus, and finally, in 1796, rallied all their available force, and by out-voting the Camillus people, carried the next town meeting up to Marcellus, so that the town meeting for 1797 was first held in this town, at the house of Samuel Rice. The house was a log one, and stood nearly opposite to the house now belonging to William Leonard. Samuel Bishop opened the first law office in town, 1801, and B. Davis Noxon the next, in 1808.

RACHEL BAKER.—Perhaps the most remarkable case of *devotional somnium*, on record, is that of Miss Rachel Baker, formerly of this town. A full history of her case may be found in the Transactions of the Physico-Medical Society of New-York, vol. 1, p. 395.

Dr. Samuel L. Mitchell, in describing her case, and who gave it a thorough investigation, thus remarks. "The latter of these remarkable affections of the human mind, *somnium cum religione*, belongs to Miss Rachel Baker, who for several years has been seized with somnium of a religious character, once a day with great regularity. These daily paroxysms recur with wonderful exactness, and from long prevalence have become habitual. They invade her at early bed time, and a fit usually lasts three-quarters of an hour. A paroxysm has been known to end in thirty-five minutes, and to continue ninety-eight. The transition from a waking state, to that of somnium, is very quick, frequently in fifteen minutes, and sometimes even less. After she retires from company, in the parlor, she is discovered to be occupied in praising God with a distinct and sonorous voice. Her discourses are usually pronounced in a private chamber, for the purpose of delivering them with more decorum on her own part, and with great

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er satisfaction to her hearers. She has been advised to take the recumbent posture. Her face being turned towards the heavens, she performs her nightly devotions with a consistency and fervor, wholly unexampled in a human being, in a state of somnium. Her body and limbs are motionless; they stir no more than the trunk and extremities of a statue; the only motion the spectator perceives, is that of her organs of speech, and an oratorical inclination of the head and neck, as if she was intently engaged in performing an academic or theological exercise. According to the tenor and solemnity of the address, the attendants are affected with seriousness. She commences and ends with an address to the throne of grace, consisting of proper topics of submission and reverence, of praise and thanksgiving, and of prayer for herself, her friends, the church, the nation, for enemies and the human race in general. Between these, is her sermon or exhortation. She begins without a text, and proceeds with an even course to the end, embellishing it sometimes with fine metaphors, vivid descriptions and poetical quotations. There is a state of body felt, like groaning, sobbing or moaning, and the distressful sound continues from two minutes to a quarter of an hour. This agitation however, does not wake her; it gradually subsides and passes into a sound and natural sleep, which continues during the remainder of the night. In the morning she wakes as if nothing had happened, and entirely ignorant of the scenes in which she has acted. She declares she knows nothing of her nightly exercises, except from the information of others. With the exception of the above mentioned agitation of the body and exercise of mind, she enjoys perfect health. In October, 1814, Miss Baker was brought to New-York by her friends, in hopes that her somnial exercises (which were considered by some of them, as owing to disease) might by the exercise of a journey, and the novelty of a large city, be removed. But none of these means produced the desired effect. Her acquaintances stated that her somnial exercises took place every night regularly, except in a few instances, when interrupted by severe sickness, from the time

they commenced, in 1812. In September, 1816, Dr. Spears, by a course of medical treatment, particularly by the use of opium, prevented a recurrence of her nightly exercises.

The parents of Miss Baker were pious and early taught her the importance of religion; she was born at Pelham, Mass., May 29th, 1794. At the age of nine years, her parents moved with her to the town of Marcellus, from which time, she said she had strong convictions of the importance of eternal things, and the thoughts of God and eternity would make her tremble."

By degrees, her mind became more and more agitated, and nightly had conversations in her sleep, till at length, these assumed a regular devotional and sermonizing form, and none who ever witnessed, doubted they were the genuine fruits of penitence, piety and peace.

HON. DAN BRADLEY—was a son of Jabez and Esther Bradley. He was born at Mount Carmel, (since Haddam,) New Haven County, Connecticut, 10th June, 1767. He received a classical education, at Yale College. He entered that celebrated institution in his nineteenth year. Four years afterwards, on the 9th of September, 1789, he graduated with distinguished academic honors, and received his master's degree out of course, at the age of twenty-three. In October, 1790, he was licensed to preach the gospel, by the association of New Haven County, and the same month, viz. 21st day of October, 1790, was married to Miss Eunice Beach. On the 11th of January, 1792, he was ordained at Haddam, Connecticut, to the pastoral charge of the Church at Whitestown, New Hartford. In the month of February following, he removed his family to that place, and took charge of this new congregation and parish, and continued his pastoral care of this flock nearly three years. He was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Johnson. On the occasion of the induction of Mr. Johnson to his pastoral office, and in honor of the event, was given, (after the solemn services of the ordination at Church,) a grand "*Ordination Ball*." Singular as this may appear at the present day, it was a custom then practiced by our Puritan fathers,

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who on any other occasion would have thought it exceedingly sinful, and perhaps a mode of religious rejoicing, which in this degenerate age of godly alienation, might be thought rather questionable.

In January, 1795, Rev. Dan Bradley was dismissed from the pastoral charge of the Church in Whitestown, at New Hartford, and the 6th of September following, removed with his family to the town of Marcellus, at the age of twenty-nine. The country was then comparatively a wilderness. He entered at once into the business of farming, with zeal and cheerfulness, and soon became noted for the purity of his taste, and success of his undertakings, setting a beautiful example to those around him, that education and refinement of mind were essential attributes to happiness and prosperity. He was appointed a Judge of Onondaga County Courts, in 1801, and by his display of legal knowledge, soon became somewhat distinguished as a Jurist. In 1808, he was appointed First Judge of the County, which office he held with some degree of distinction, till the time of his resignation in 1813, when he was succeeded by Joshua Forman. He was somewhat remarkable for his ready classic humor, and on many occasions displayed it much to the amusement and gratification of his friends. On a time, during his official capacity as Judge, a certain colored man, named Hank Blakeman, occupied, on the Oswego River, just above Oswego Falls, a commodious place for landing, and it was also a convenient crossing place. For the privilege of landing on his dock, the colored man exacted a small fee. This was thought rather oppressive by some of his neighbors, who summoned the Road Commissioners of the town, who laid out a road in such a manner as considerably to abridge his privileges. He feeling himself aggrieved, appealed to the Judges of Common Pleas, who upon a proper representation of the facts, took the matter into consideration. A day was set for an investigation of the matter, and Judges Humphreys, Bradley and Vredenburg, accompanied by the present Judge Moseley, then a student with Judge Forman, at Onondaga, who went down as an advocate of the aggrieved party's rights.

In those days the roads were almost impassable in that region, and the party made arrangements to go down in a boat from Salina. A suitable store of provisions and other necessities, was laid in for the occasion, and the party set off in high spirits, anticipating a delightful trip. The day was propitious; they glided down the river beautifully, and it required but little exertion to make the desired progress. While passing along under the shady oaks and elms which crowned the margin of the river, Judge Bradley languishingly remarked how pleasant was their journey, and quoted the first verse of Virgil's *Georgics*,

"Tityre, tu, patulæ recubans sub tegmine fagi," &c.

On they went, enjoying the scenery beyond measure. They examined the case in hand, and finally reversed the acts of the Commissioners, restoring to the injured party his rights in full, very much to his satisfaction, who was so much rejoiced, that he gave, voluntarily, as a fee to his young lawyer, five silver dollars, which he has since declared was his first and richest fee, and gave him more pleasure, than any other received in his life. Business done, they turned their faces towards home. But with the fatigues of the day, and the opposing current of the river, their progress was in the beginning rather slow. However, by dint of perseverance and hard labor, they made respectable progress. It was work indeed, and to add to their embarrassment, night was at hand; the musketoes, gnats, flies and bullfrogs, gave them no peace, and some of the party began to murmur. In this state of affairs, Judge Bradley was called upon to reverse his sentiment, received with so much eclat in the morning, whereupon he readily replied—

— "*facilis descensus Avernî;*

*Sed revocare grandum, superasque evadere ad auras,  
Hoc opus, hic labor est.*"

Which, in the language of a familiar poet, may be rendered,

"Easy the fall to Pluto's dreary den,  
But hard the scrabble to get back again."

The flagging spirits of the party were revived by this sally,

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and the rest of the voyage was performed, if not with wished for speed, with greater cheerfulness.

To return, it is not of his professional career that we designed so much to speak, nor of his character as a man, a christian, a parent and a friend, though in all these respects the only language could be that of eulogy. But it is of him and his influence as an agriculturist, that this sketch was mainly designed.

Always correctly viewing agriculture as the great base of national prosperity, he devoted himself with a well directed zeal, (which some term enthusiasm,) to a thorough examination of the principles on which the cultivation of the soil should be conducted. His grand object was to reduce the process of agriculture to a science, and to induce organization and order where confusion and uncertainty prevailed. In his essays on the various subjects which he discussed, he displayed a master mind, deeply imbued with the principles of philosophy and experience, and his efforts have undoubtedly had a weighty influence in improving the agriculture of our county, as they have greatly enriched most of the various agricultural publications of the country. In the *New England Farmer*, the *Baltimore Farmer* and the *Plough Boy*, are found numerous forcible efforts of his sagacious and penetrating mind. The *Genesee Farmer* owed much of its elevated character to his reflections. It was for a long period the chosen medium through which for a long series of years, the rich results and ample experience of his mature mind were presented to the public. He was one of the first to attribute the hoof-ail, which prevailed extensively in 1820, to the prevalence of ergot in the grasses, and he collected a mass of facts on the subject, which set the matter forever beyond question. He always strenuously opposed the heterodox notion of wheat turning to chess—and showed conclusively by science and experiments, the absurdity of the idea. Indeed there is scarcely a subject connected with scientific or practical agriculture, on which light has not been thrown by his labors, a correct theory established, and objections to innovations obviated. Every subject that prom-

ised to be an improvement in agriculture, received his attention, and if its claims were well founded, he did not hesitate to adopt it himself, and urge its adoption by others. As a patron and advocate of agricultural societies, he was among the first, and to his opinions and influence, many of the prominent advantages derived by the State from the law of 1819, was unquestionably owing. He was appointed President of the first Onondaga County Agricultural Society, in 1819. His numerous articles, published in the volumes of the State Agricultural Society, and his contributions to most of the agricultural journals of the day, establish conclusively, the interest he felt in his favorite pursuit, and the zeal and intelligence he brought to its support. It was the happiness of the author in early life, to enjoy his acquaintance, and long will be remembered his conversations and lessons upon this his favorite topic. He died at his residence, at Marcellus, September 19th, 1838, aged 71 years. He died as he had lived, at peace with the world, and with an unshaken confidence in his God. Such men are an ornament to the age in which they live, and their country owes them an incalculable debt of gratitude.

Statistics of the town of Marcellus, taken from the Census of 1845:—

Number of inhabitants, 2,649; subject to military duty, 292; voters, 622; aliens, 48; Paupers, 00; children attending common schools, 648; acres of improved land, 16,169; grist mills, 9; saw mills, 10; paper mills, 3; fulling mills, 2; carding machines, 2; woolen factories, 2; tanneries, 4; Churches—Baptist, 1; Episcopal, 1; Presbyterian, 1; Congregational, 1; Methodist 1; common schools, 13; select do., 8; taverns, 3; stores, 6; groceries, 3; farmers, 514; merchants, 11; manufacturers, 21; mechanics, 131; clergymen, 3; physicians, 6; attorneys, 2.

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SKANEATELES.—DANIEL KELLOGG.—Daniel Kellogg, one of the early and most distinguished inhabitants of the county of Onondaga, was born in Williamstown, Mass., April 19, 1780. When quite young, he entered a student of Williams College in his native town; where it is supposed he remained about two years; as we find him, at the age of seventeen, a student in the law office of Abraham Van Vechten, Esq., of Albany, then, and for many years after, one of the most eminent lawyers in the State. Here he laid the foundation of those high legal attainments, for which he became so distinguished in after life. He continued in Mr. Van Vechten's office until he had completed his legal studies, and was admitted to the bar in October, 1800; a short time before he had attained his majority. His father, a farmer in comfortable circumstances, died when the subject of this notice was quite young; and left to his son means barely sufficient, with rigid economy, to provide for his support and education. Accordingly, when about to enter upon the great business of life, he found himself destitute of all resources, except the abilities with which nature had liberally endowed him,—his profession and indomitable energies,—resources, however, which in the sequel proved more valuable to him than wealth. At this time "the far West," as this part of the country was then deemed, held out alluring prospects for young men of talent and enterprise; and thither he directed his course in the spring of 1801; and shortly after commenced the practice of law in the village of Auburn, then only a small hamlet of a few scattering houses. In 1802, he was married to Miss Laura Hyde, of that place, who still survives him.

His journey to western New York was performed on horseback, then the only means of conveyance, except the cumbrous lumber wagon only used for the transportation of the household goods of the adventurous pioneers; and a single pair of saddlebags afforded ample accommodations for all his worldly wealth, and that too without inconvenience to either horse or rider. In after times, when in the enjoyment of the abundant fruits of his industry and talents, he delighted to recount the

amusing incidents of this journey, and to portray in lively colors the vexations and difficulties that surrounded him in his early career.

In the spring of 1803, he removed from Auburn to Skaneateles in the county of Onondaga, which thereafter became his permanent residence.

Though always taking a lively interest in important public questions, he never sought political preferment; yet, besides holding several offices of minor consideration, he was appointed in 1813 to that of District Attorney for the counties of Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland and Onondaga; the duties of which he discharged, with characteristic ability, for three years.

In 1818 he was elected to the Presidency of the Bank of Auburn; which elevated station he held at the time of his death; and which occurred at his residence at Skaneateles, on the 4th of May, 1836.

For eighteen years he had the principal direction of the financial affairs of the bank, which he found in a state of almost inextricable confusion. His talents and habits of business were admirably suited to the duties of the station; and he soon succeeded in restoring its affairs to order, and in establishing its credit on a sure and enduring basis. During this period, there occurred seasons of extreme commercial embarrassment; but no one ever doubted the solvency of the institution over which he presided. His mind, clear and comprehensive—tenacious of its convictions, and only yielding to the force of reason—profound, rather than brilliant, was never satisfied short of the most thorough and searching scrutiny. To a mind thus constituted, he added habits of untiring industry, a love of order, observable in the minutest details, and an integrity almost proverbial. Such qualifications could not fail to raise him to the first rank in his profession, to secure him an unlimited measure of public confidence; and, consequently, a large and lucrative practice.

Mr. Kellogg seems early to have become impressed with the most enlarged ideas of the transcendent dignity and boundless extent of the legal science. With the almost unlimited re-

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sources with which nature and persevering industry had endowed him, it is not so much a matter of surprise that he should grapple with enthusiasm the chaotic ambiguities and subtle refinements of the law, which always found in him a faithful expounder; the client a candid counsellor, justice an impartial dispenser, and though the judicial ermine never graced his shoulders, none were more worthy of its folds. But Mr. Kellogg's fame was not confined to the arena of the Bar; his skill as a financier was unrivalled. Carrying with him into all the vocations of business, that methodical arrangement for which he was so distinguished in his profession, he triumphed over every obstacle, and reaped as the reward of his labor, a most abundant harvest.

Few men in any station, have labored more assiduously, or for a greater number of hours daily, than he did; or who accomplished more. Still he was ever ready to respond to the calls of friendship, and no man took greater delight in the social circle; or could impart a larger share to the fund of common enjoyment.

As an advocate, he addressed himself to the reason, rather than to the imagination and passion; and contenting himself with the forcible and plain exhibition of truth, was careless of oratorical graces and elegance of style. As might naturally be expected of a mind thus constituted and disciplined, his was decidedly practical; and theories, however specious and imposing, seldom found favor with him, until subjected to the searching ordeal and approval of his own judgement. With him, a verbal promise or engagement was ever regarded as obligatory, and if anything, more sacred than if reduced to writing; and the accuracy, considering the extent and variety of his business, with which his memory retained such engagements was almost unexampled.

His death, occurring as it did, at an age when his mental powers were still in full vigor; and when many years of active usefulness might have been reasonably anticipated, was regarded as a public calamity; especially by business men, who knew and could best appreciate his worth.

The Court of Chancery for the seventh circuit, was then in session in the village of Auburn, and on the announcement of his death by Wm. H. Seward, Esq., the Court thereupon adjourned to the next day. The members of the Bar then formed themselves into a meeting, and appointing a committee to report what measures should be adopted, expressive of their sentiments on the occasion. The committee consisted of Messrs. Seward, Noxon, Lawrence, Bronson and Knox; and reported, among others the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That in the death of Daniel Kellogg, Esq., the Bar of this State are called to deplore the loss of an individual, who, by the exercise of vigorous intellectual powers, laborious and persevering studies, great urbanity of deportment, and zealous devotion to the duties of his profession, connected with sterling integrity and a high sense of honor, had justly secured to him, not only a distinguished rank among them, and in their affectionate esteem, but also the confidence and respect of the community at large."

The other resolutions embraced a tender to the family of their "sympathy for the loss they had sustained in being deprived of a relative, who most faithfully and affectionately discharged the duties arising from his domestic and social relations;" and also to attend in a body, the funeral of the deceased. The proceedings were signed by their chairman, Elijah Miller, Esq.; and secretary, S. A. Goodwin, Esq.

To these sentiments, a numerous class of friends and acquaintances, to many of whom he was endeared by the recollection of many acts of kindness, could most feelingly respond.

The extent and variety of his business transactions, must have often brought him into collision with adverse interests, and it is but reasonable to suppose that hostile feelings may have been at times elicited; yet he departed, leaving few enemies, and many ardent and devoted friends.

Though he made no profession of religion, he was far from being insensible to the great value of its sacred truths; and duly appreciated its salutary influence upon society. Accord-

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ingly he contributed freely to its support ; as well as to objects of benevolence.

The intimate connection between the general diffusion of knowledge among the people, and the perpetuity and healthy action of our political institutions, he fully understood ; and was consequently the efficient friend of popular education, discharging for several years the duties of Commissioner of Common Schools in his own town, visiting the several districts, and taking a lively interest in whatever promoted their usefulness.

In person, Mr. Kellogg was rather above the common height, well formed and imposing, as well as prepossessing in his appearance and address ; which was uniformly courteous and engaging. These, together with an open and intellectual countenance, and a disposition always cheerful, engaged the respect and favorable regards of those who approached him.\*

SKANEATELES.—This town was taken from the western part of Marcellus, and was organized in 1830. It lies mainly on both sides of the northern half of the Skaneateles Lake, and contains about forty lots of the original township. At the period of the survey of the Military Tract, there was quite a large Indian village on the lake shore, south-west of the present village of Skaneateles ; they were of the Onondaga nation.

The first white settler within the limits of the present town of Skaneateles, was John Thompson, by birth a Scotsman, in 1793. He located on lot number eighteen, on the west line of the township. He received his land as part compensation for services rendered as chainman to the principal surveyor, Moses De Witt, who laid out this part of the military bounty lands. Mrs. Thompson was the first white woman who came to this town, and lived here nearly a year without seeing a white person except her own family. The farm is now owned by Mr. Amasa Smith. A Mr. Robinson came in the following year, and lived upon the lake shore. In 1796 we find to have set-

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\* For the foregoing notice, the author is under obligation to Phares Gould, Esq.

tled in this town, Lovel Gibbs, who kept a tavern in a log house, Jonathan Hall and Winston Day. In 1797, Warren Hecox, James Porter, Dr. Munger; and soon after, Dr. Samuel Porter, Elnathan Andrews, John Legg, Moses Loss, John Briggs, Nathan Kelsey, William J. Vredenburg, Isaac Sherwood and Dr. Benedict. Then came the Kelloggs and Earlls, so that by 1805-6-7, this part of Marcellus now Skaneateles, was pretty generally settled. Daniel Earll with his brother Nehemiah, came from Washington County, and settled at Onondaga Hollow, in the year 1792. Nehemiah died in 1808; he had one daughter. Daniel Earll had the following named sons, viz.: Jonas, Daniel, Nathaniel, Robert, Benjamin, Watson, Nehemiah and Abijah. The two youngest, Nehemiah and Abijah, came to Onondaga with their father. Robert and Benjamin removed with their families to Onondaga, in the winter of 1794-5, and remained there about a year. After Robert, Benjamin, Watson and Abijah removed to Marcellus, Robert and Abijah settled on lot number twenty-seven, and the other two on lot number eleven, in the same town.

In 1802, Jonas Earll came from Washington County, and settled on lot number nineteen, Marcellus. He had three sons, viz.: Solomon, Jonas, Jr., and David. Solomon died several years ago. Jonas, Jr., died in October, 1846, and Jonas, Sen., October, 1847, at the advanced age of ninety-six years. David now resides in the town of Salina.

Jonas Earll, Jr. held several offices of trust in the county, and for more than twenty years, was one of the leading political men in it. He was a member of Assembly in 1820 and 1821, a Senator from 1822 to 1827, and a member of the twentieth and twenty-first Congresses, 1826 to 1830, and for several years, sheriff.

Robert Earll had six sons, viz.: Isaac, Robert, Nehemiah H., Hezekiah, Hiram and Ira. Robert, Sen., died in 1834, and his son Ira about the same time. The other sons still reside in this county, except Robert, Jr., who resides in Wyoming County. Judge Nehemiah Earll has occupied several important stations in the official history of the county, viz.;

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Judge of Onondaga County Common Pleas, from 1823 to 1831, Superintendent of Salt Springs, from 1831 to 1835, member of the twenty-sixth Congress, 1841 and 1842.

Daniel Earll, Sen., remained in the town of Onondaga until 1810, when he removed to Marcellus, and lived near his sons Robert and Abijah, until his death, which occurred in 1817, aged eighty-eight years. This numerous and influential family were of Massachusetts origin.

Lovell Gibbs erected the first frame house in town, in Skaneateles Village, 1796, and Dr. Hall, another the same year. In 1797, James Porter erected a large house, in which he kept the first tavern in town; and the timber of which it was constructed, was the first raft that was ever afloat on the Skaneateles Lake. Winston Day the same year erected a commodious frame building for a store, and in it kept the first store of goods in the town. He was set up in trade by Judge Sanger.

In these primitive times, the means of subsistence were sometimes scanty and precarious. Provisions were obtained mostly from the towns of Aurelius and Scipio, which had been settled somewhat earlier, and were then in Onondaga County. In 1799, Warren Hecox, who is still living, remarks, that there was an uncommon scarcity of grain, that he had to send to Scipio, twenty miles, and gave two dollars and fifty cents for one bushel of wheat, and he could only raise money enough to purchase a single bushel at a time. He hired a horse at fifty cents a day, and sent a boy eighteen miles, to Montville, in Sempronius, to get the bushel ground, which took two days. The mills having stopped running at Auburn and Camillus on account of the great drought of that season. His was not a solitary case, his neighbors were in the same predicament, and some even worse off; for they could get neither money nor wheat.

The markets for produce, after the people had prospered so as to procure a surplus, were Albany and Utica. It took a horse team in those times, fourteen days to make the journey to Albany and back with a load, and often longer; and



lage, which was subsequently sold to the Baptist Society, who removed it down to a more central location, and fitted it up for a house of worship for their society. A spacious and tasteful brick edifice was erected by the Presbyterian Society in 1830. The first missionary was the Rev. Mr. Osgood, afterwards the Rev. Messrs. Seth Williston, Bushnell, Jerome and Crane. The first stated preacher was the Rev. Thomas Robins. The first ordained minister was the Rev. Nathaniel Swift, in 1811. Other ministers have been Rev. Messrs. Benjamin Rice, Benjamin B. Stocton, (Congregational changed to Presbyterian under Mr. Stocton, in 1818,) Alexander M. Cowan, Samuel W. Brace, Samuel W. Bush. St. James' Church, Skaneateles, was organized 4th January, 1816, Rev. William A. Clark, presiding. This organization failed for want of regular attention to legal requirements. In 1824, the society was re-organized by Rev. Augustus L. Converse, Jonathan Booth, Charles J. Burnett, were chosen Wardens, and Stephen Horton, John Pierson, Charles Pardee, J. W. Livingston, Samuel Francis and Elijah J. Rust, Vestrymen. Rev. Davenport Phelps was the first missionary for this Church 1803-4, and the Rev. William A. Clark kept a select school for boys in Judge Vredenburg's house, and attended to parochial duties. Church services were held at the houses of Mr. Vredenburg and Charles J. Burnett. Rev. Lucius Smith succeeded Mr. Clark, and seats were fitted up in a store, for the greater convenience of worshippers, which was also used for a school room. Rev. A. S. Hollister succeeded Mr. Smith. Rev. A. L. Converse officiated next, and the Rev. Amos Pardee was pastor in 1824, Mr. Hollister again in 1827. The first church edifice was erected 1827-8, and greatly enlarged and improved in 1847. The late Rev. Joseph T. Clark was the officiating minister of this parish from May, 1831, to October, 1844, more than thirteen years. He died at Jamaica whither he had retired for the improvement of his declining health, and died there, rector of St. Dorothy's Parish, 17th July, 1845, in the forty-seventh year of his age. Rev. Mr. Seymour, present rector. The author was unable to gather

any statistics of the rise and progress of the Baptist Society of Skaneateles.

An academy was established at Skaneateles in 1840, but has since been merged in a consolidated school. Lydia Mott, a Quakeress, established a boarding school for young ladies, on the western shore of the lake, many years ago, which became very celebrated. Mr. Mekeel was a teacher. It was named "*The Hive*."

A newspaper was first published at Skaneateles under the title of the "Skaneateles Telegraph," (Antimasonic,) edited by William H. Childs. "The Columbian," (Whig,) was established in place of the Telegraph, in 1830, by John Graves, and now published by M. A. Kinney. Skaneateles Democrat first issued 1838, by William M. Beauchamp, present publisher William H. Jewett. The first Justice of the Peace in this part of Marcellus, was Ebenezer R. Hawley, Esq., who was afterwards Sheriff of the county. The records of this town were consumed by fire in 1835. The first town meeting was held in the Presbyterian meeting house, 1830.

The first grist and saw mills erected in this town were by Judge Jedediah Sanger, of New Hartford, Onondaga County, in 1796, at the outlet of the lake.

The first bridge was built in 1800, by the Seneca Road Company. It was twenty-four rods long by twenty-four feet broad, and stood upon fourteen posts. It has been twice rebuilt, the last time in 1842, reducing the length to twenty-four feet.

There are no natural curiosities of note in this town. There are some petrifications on the banks of the creek, common to limestone regions, such as branches of trees, leaves, insects, &c. The banks of the creek exhibit the various strata of rocks to great advantage, but as they are similar to those in other parts of the county, in other places described, we forbear repetition.

A steamboat was first started on the Skaneateles Lake in 1831. It never worked well, and after awhile was converted into an ordinary sail boat. On the 4th of July, 1848, a new

steamboat was started on daily trips, to and fro, at a moderate speed. It was a fast sailer, and was to be the old one. H. Porter, the owner, was the outlet of the water. This was a natural. This was from one to the other. to draw during the stream was of limestone. a large portion of it disappeared. was it known. State have examined. been turned, and grout, so that manufacturers supplied water for washing materials. The hundred feet of Owaseo, on either side of the limestone are not impure, pure and limpid.

On leaving the town we come to a large distillery, a mill, woolen factory is Weed's grist mill. the Hart lot is over two hundred and fifty hundred hogs.

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steamboat was placed on the lake, which makes her regular daily trips, to the head of the lake and back, with all desirable speed. It is named "Skaneateles," a neat, commodious and fast sailing boat, commanded by Capt. Hecox, who is said to be the oldest native born citizen in the town, and Dr. E. H. Porter, the next. The State have constructed a dam across the outlet of the Skaneateles Lake, for the purpose of retaining the water for the use of the Jordan level of the Erie Canal. This forms a vast reservoir, eighteen miles long, by from one to two miles broad, and four feet deep, from which to draw during the dry season. There is a peculiarity about the stream which empties this lake. As it passes over a bed of limestone some two or three miles north of the village, a large portion of the water, full one half, in dry seasons, seemed to disappear among the fissures of the rocks, and no where was it known to re-appear. In order to save the water, the State have expended large sums of money. The channel has been turned, and the bottom chinked with small stone, clay and grout, so that at present there is but little waste. Manufacturers speak highly of the softness of the Skaneateles water for washing and cleansing wool and other manufacturing materials. The lake is the highest in the State, some two hundred feet higher than Otisco, and one hundred higher than Owasco, on either side of it, situated among the shale above the limestone stratum, and is also mainly fed by streams which are not impregnated with lime, which renders the water soft, pure and limpid.

On leaving Skaneateles Village, passing down the outlet, we come to Dorastus Kellogg's extensive woolen factory, a large distillery and two grist mills. At Mottville is a grist mill, woolen factory, machine shop and iron foundery. Then is Weed's grist mill, a woolen factory and four saw mills. At the Hart lot is a grist and saw mill and a distillery, using over two hundred bushels of grain per day, and fattening twelve hundred hogs.

There is a succession of falls at the outlet of the lake, none exceeding twelve or fourteen feet. The principal one is on



community farm, now owned by Samuel Sellers, about four miles north of the village. Here the stream falls over a ledge of limestone, from which are quarried excellent stone for building, window-caps and stools, door steps, &c. In fact this stream is one of the most valuable in the county. In addition to its durability, the fall is so gradual, and yet so steep, that the water may be used over and over again, once in fifteen or twenty rods, all the distance from Skaneateles to Elbridge, and might be occupied to triple the extent that it is at present. Mottville is a smart little manufacturing place, between Skaneateles and Elbridge, having a Church, Post Office, &c. Other Post Offices in this town are Mandana and Rhoades.

The village of Skaneateles is one of the most lovely and picturesque in western New-York. From this village the eye measures about half the distance of the lake to the south, a mile and a half in width. On the shores, are no bogs or marshes to disfigure the prospect; the rich velvet like green of the gradually sloping banks of the lake, seem to be resting on the water's brink. Villas and lawns give a charm which distance lends to the view. The woodlands, clothed in the richest green, rock and rustle their foliage in the wind, and the golden grain of the cultivated fields waves in the breeze. The herds and flocks graze in slothful competency over the luxuriant pastures, and the light bark glides gracefully over the sweet bosom of the water. The hum of prosperous business is heard amid the rattling of rail road cars, the clinking of hammers, the rumbling of machinery and the rushing of water falls, and the happy faces and the happy homes of the citizens, invite the settlement of many more among them. The society, the schools, the scenery and the prospects of business, are all wholesome and flourishing, and it may be said, without fear of contradiction, that few if any villages present so many great and desirable advantages. It contains about fourteen hundred inhabitants.

Statistics of Skaneateles from census of 1845:—

Number of inhabitants, 3,827; subject to military duty, 386; voters, 867; aliens, 96; children attending Common

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Schools, 703; acres of improved land, 20,483; grist mills, 4; saw mills, 4; iron works, 2; trip hammer, 1; ashery, 1; clover mill, 1; Tanneries, 2; Churches—Baptist, 1; Presbyterian, 1; Methodist, 1; Universalist, 1; Quaker, 1; Common Schools, 18; taverns, 5; stores, 11; groceries, 4; farmers, 544; merchants, 10; manufacturers, 44; mechanics, 408; clergymen, 7; physicians, 6; lawyers, 6.

CAMILLUS.—This was one of the original townships, number five of the military tract. It was included in the town of Marcellus, at the first organization of the county, and was erected into a town by itself in 1799. The first town meeting was directed by law to be held at the house of Medad Curtis, who was elected Supervisor, and Daniel Vail, Town Clerk. The early records of this town were destroyed by fire several years since, and there is no town record farther back than April, 1829.

The first white settler of this town, was Capt. Isaac Lindsay, about the year 1790, and directly after, his brothers James, William and Elijah Lindsay. They bought their land for two shillings per acre; it was lot No. 80. Nicholas Lamberson settled in this town in 1793, William Reed, Selden Leonard, Mordecai Ellis, a family named White and David Hinsdale and others previous to 1806. Squire Munro settled on lot 81, now in the town of Elbridge, in 1799. His sons John, David, Nathan and Philip A. Munro were then young men, and have since been known throughout the county for their enterprise, industry, intelligence and wealth. Thomas Corey who was killed by a fall from a wagon, was an early settler in this town, as well as Isaac Brown, Nathaniel Richman, Jacob Chandler, John Hess, John Paddock and two of the name of McCracken. David Munro, settled at Camillus, where he now resides, in 1808. At this time the heavy labor was principally performed by the settlers, by what was usually termed "*bees*," to which a general invitation was extended to all the able bodied men of the town; chopping bees, logging bees, husking bees, &c., were customary, and usually ended in a frolic.

The first frame house was erected by Isaac Lindsay, on lot No. 80, in 1795. There were but two frame houses, at the village of Camillus, in 1808. David Munro erected a substantial frame house in 1810. The White family had erected a frame house at Amboy, about the same time, and Capt. Kimberly also; none east, had been erected at this time till you came to Judge Geddes, and none west to Elbridge. A log school house was erected first, in 1808; previously there had been no schools in town, and but little attention paid to education. This was succeeded by a frame school house in 1813. When the country was first cleared, crops of all kinds were abundant; there were no roads passable for loaded teams, and no means of transporting the surplus produce to market, consequently there was a great waste of grain; much of it was thrown to swine and other stock. As settlers arrived the demand was more active, and in 1802, there was a great scarcity of the necessaries of life. Wheat could scarcely be bought at any price, and twenty shillings per bushel was the lowest price it could be obtained for at all, and corn from ten to twelve shillings a bushel. The first surplus raised for market was in 1805, when it was carried to Albany, on sleighs. Thousands of bushels of wheat have been since, annually transported to Albany from this town, by sleighs and wagons, previous to the building of the Erie Canal.

The north branch of the Seneca Turnpike was incorporated in 1806. And in 1807 and 1808, Squire Munro and his sons built so much of this road as passed through the township of Camillus, about eleven miles, and the stock is still owned by them or their survivors, which they received as a compensation for the work.

A Post Office was first established at Camillus in 1811, and David Munro appointed Post Master. James R. Lawrence, P. M., 1824. Grove Lawrence and Robert Dickey, succeeded. Bellisle, Windfall and Wellington, are Post Offices in this town.

The first Presbyterian Society and Church was formed at Camillus, in 1817, and their house of worship erected in 1822. Their clergymen have been Rev. Messrs. Spicer, Chadwick,

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Taylor, Stockton, Harrington, Ward, Robinson and Williams. Methodist Society organized in 1831. A Presbyterian Society was organized at Amboy, 1846, and erected a house of worship the same year—Messrs. Lathrop and Sherwood, ministers. A Baptist Society was organized at Bellisle in 1834, under Elder Daniel D. Chittenden.

Post Office established at Bellisle in 1830, George Kimberly, P. M. Isaac Lindsay kept the first tavern in town, in 1793, Thomas Corey in 1801. John Tomlinson opened a store first in town, in 1808, at Camillus village. Munro & Benedict in 1810. Gould and Hess, Hoar & Webber, William A. Cook, John C. Ellis, &c. James R. Lawrence opened the first law office in town, in 1815. Grove Lawrence another, in 1821. Other lawyers have been, Samuel Hammond, Daniel Pratt, D. D. Hillis, &c. Dr. Isaac Magoón established himself as a physician at Camillus in 1808; succeeded by Dr. Richards.

The first gristmill erected in town was at Camillus village, in 1806, by Squire Munro, William Wheeler and Samuel Powers, and a saw mill at the same time. A saw-mill was first erected at Amboy, by Joseph White, in 1805, and a fulling mill in 1801.

There is at present at Camillus village, a large grist mill, owned by Phares Gould & Son, with three run of stones, and a saw mill. In 1848, the new "Novelty Mills," by Weston & Dill, were completed, and are driven by steam. There is also a large steam saw mill in operation, a woolen factory, turning machine, lath mills, &c. &c. There are about seven hundred and fifty inhabitants in Camillus village.

The soil of the town of Camillus, is thought by the occupants, to be inferior to none in the county, and judging from the general appearance, the magnitude and multiplicity of crops, their estimation is not overrated. In the hills south of the turnpike, are inexhaustible beds of plaster, which is quarried and sold in great quantities, and is unsurpassed in quality. The first plaster discovered in the United States, was in this town, by William Lindsay, in 1792. His attention was accidentally arrested by a portion of the white semi-transparent rock

projecting from the side hill, a little south of Camillus village, on lot number ninety. A large block of it was taken to his house and examined by sundry persons, who at the time, were unable to determine what it was. It was at length ascertained that it was plaster, and equal to that brought from Nova Scotia. De Witt Clinton, Samuel Young and other distinguished individuals visited the spot, in 1809. Josiah Buck bought the land at once, and the fame of the new plaster beds spread abroad far and wide. Specimens of it were sent to Europe to be tested or compared with the plaster of Paris, and it was found to be equal to that. In 1808, a company of one hundred and fifty shareholders, (shares fifty dollars each,) was formed, for working the same. Judge Forman took two hundred shares, and others, ten, five, three, two and one, each, till the whole one thousand shares, were taken up. Judge Forman was chosen president of the company, and Josiah Buck was the principal manager. By 1812, the beds had been thoroughly opened and explored, and large quantities in the stone, were carried off eastward, and to the southern tier of counties. Since which, the trade has been flourishing and lucrative. Some of the finest specimens of the foliated transparent selenite variety, have been obtained at these beds, which from its transparency, is often termed alabaster.

In the recent excavations, made for the enlargement of the Jordan level of the Erie Canal, were thrown out large bodies of cemented gravel, or conglomerate rock, about two feet thick; underneath this, lies a bed of gravel uncemented. From this, it appears that a change in the formation of the materials, which at present compose the earth, in this section, is fast going on, and that ere long, what are now termed gravel beds, will soon become solid rock, near the surface of the earth.

There are excellent quarries of gray limestone in this town, and a stratum of sandstone intermixed, as noticed in the town of Elbridge. Calcareous Tufa abounds in the hills, which makes excellent lime, and is called "*basswood limestone*." It is considered the most obstinate material to grade of any thing known. It being too porous to hold blasts of powder,

and yet so friable, that the most enormous calcareous masses, in the Nine Mile Creek, are scattered through the hills, and in the merable sea-coast, where they were found, for about two feet, and they all crumble.

Recently, a shaft has been sunk in the hill about two miles from the pieces of Antiquities, and the proprietor, Col. John Forman, has taken out a thousand shares for a thousand dollars, much assurance.

COL. JOHN FORMAN, of Onondaga County, New-York, was born Dill, whose ancestor was born 27th of March, 1770, and received a school education, and an English education, from observation, and from those times, with which he became acquainted, and during the war, he entered the service, as a volunteer, and was killed by John Graham, and by the McDougall family, of New-York.

Montgomery, in the creek separates the British. The British enabled those at Ithaca to pass the creek, passing afterwards went

and yet so firm as not to be easily broken. There are numerous calcareous deposits all along the foot of the hills, in the Nine Mile Creek valley. When the Erie Canal was excavated through the farm of David Hinsdale, in this town, innumerable sea-clam and other marine shells, and bones of fish were found, firmly embedded in the hardpan or tenacious clay, about two feet below the surface. Upon exposure to the air, they all crumbled to dust.

Recently, efforts have been made in this town, to explore what has long been considered by some, to be a bed of coal; a shaft has been sunk to the depth of about twelve feet, on a hill about two miles south of Camillus village. Detached pieces of Anthracite coal are said to have been found. The proprietor, Col. Bull, is at present (1848) making preparations for a thorough exploration for this desirable mineral, with much assurance of success.

COL. JOHN DILL, was a native of Shawangunk, Ulster County, New-York. He was a son of Robert and Hannah Dill, whose ancestors came from Holland. John Dill was born 27th of November, 1757. His early advantages for school education were not liberal; he however acquired a good English education, was an excellent arithmetician, learned much from observation and from the society of distinguished men of those times, with whom his family were familiar. At an early age he became a practical surveyor, and was noted for his accuracy and dispatch. On the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, he entered what was then termed, the five months service, as a volunteer Orderly Sergeant in the company of Capt. John Graham, Col. Paulding's regiment, under Gen. Alexander McDougall, and was in one of the battles in the vicinity of New-York. In October, 1777, he was stationed at Fort Montgomery, in that portion called Fort Clinton. A small creek separates the two. At this time it was taken by the British. The battle continued until late at night, which enabled those at Fort Clinton to escape. He with others, swam the creek, passing under the wall of Fort Montgomery. He afterwards went up the North River with the Americans, in

pursuit of the British fleet and army, to Esopus, now Kingston, the capital of Ulster County, which the British burned. After the surrender of General Burgoyne, he returned with the army to the vicinity of New-York. After his first term of service expired, he enlisted a second time (1777) in a corps of artificers. He was of an ingenious turn of mind, could turn his hand to almost any kind of mechanical labor, and became very useful in this branch of the service. His commanding officer was Capt. James Young. Afterwards, the company was commanded by Capt. James Shephard. The following is a copy of his discharge from this company:

"The bearer, John Dill, having served three years as an artificer in Captain Shephard's company, and the time being fully expired that he did engage for, he is now discharged the service, and has leave to return to Shawangunk.

Fishkill, Dec. 14, 1780.

J. BALDWIN,

Col. and Com. of Artificers."

At the time of his discharge, Col. Christopher Ming, who had command of the Quarter Master's department in that division of the army, took a fancy to him, and invited him to take a place in his staff, which offer he accepted in 1780. After a short term of service under Col. Ming, he became acquainted with Quartermaster General, Timothy Pickering; and through his influence, received a commission in his department. In this situation he remained to the close of the war, being generally on duty in the vicinity of New-York, West Point, and other places on the North River. After the war, he was retained in the service by Gen. Pickering, at Newburgh, assisting in the arrangement of the papers of the Quartermaster General's department, which were finally boxed up and deposited in Philadelphia. These papers consisted of bills settled and unsettled, certificates and evidences of debt. These certificates &c., were many of them given for stock, grain, forage, &c., which had in many instances been forcibly taken from the owners, for the subsistence of the army. The claims were to be adjusted, and Gen. Pick-

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ering was charged with this duty. The associates of Major Dill at this time, were Henry Demblar, Peter Anspaw and Peter Tenbroeck, the latter of whom subsequently settled at Onondaga Hollow. These claims were generally satisfactorily arranged by General Pickering and his assistants. After the new Constitution was adopted, Dr. Cochran, a distinguished surgeon of the army, was appointed loan officer, with powers to settle these liquidated debts, and to his office Major Dill was transferred. Many of the claims had been transferred to the hands of speculators, who had bought them up, in many instances for little or nothing. These claims were made at length a funded debt, and Dr. Cochran and Major Dill finally settled them to the satisfaction of all parties.

After the close of these affairs, he moved to New-York, opened a broker's office, and continued there little more than a year; after which, in company with his old associates, Henry Demblar and Peter Anspaw, he set up a store of goods at Middletown Point, New-Jersey, where they carried on an extensive business till 1808, when he again returned to his native county. Here he received the appointment of Brigade Major and Inspector for the counties of Ulster and Orange, which office was then both highly honorable and lucrative. In 1812 he was chosen one of the Electors of Ulster County, for President and Vice-President. He came to Onondaga in 1813, spent some time with his old associate, Peter Tenbroeck; after which he joined his brother, Judge Samuel Dill, then residing at Auburn, Cayuga County, where he was for some time engaged in making sale of military lands of which he was the owner. In 1828, the brothers removed to the town of Camillus, where he lived very much respected and beloved. He was never married. In personal appearance, he was little above middling stature, straight, well proportioned, possessing a keen blue eye, and rotund countenance. He always had the air of a military man, always walked erect, with a firm martial step. In his dealings with his fellow men, he was never arrogant, but upright and generous to a fault. To conclude, he was a perfect specimen of a gentleman of the old

school. He died at Camillus, 21st September, 1846, in the 88th year of his age, highly esteemed for his many virtues, beloved for the amiability of his temper, and mourned as a kind neighbor and estimable friend. This feeble tribute is due to his memory as a patriot of the Revolution.

Statistics of the town of Camillus, taken from the census of 1845:—

Number of inhabitants, 2,967; subject to military duty, 329; voters, 679; aliens, 75; children attending common schools, 806; acres of improved land, 15,847; grist mills, 3; saw mills, 8; fulling mills, 1; carding machines, 1; woolen factory, 1; ashery, 1; tanneries, 2; churches—Methodist, 1; Presbyterian, 2; common schools, 11; taverns, 7; stores, 5; groceries, 6; farmers, 505; merchants, 11; manufactories, 6; mechanics, 135; clergymen, 6; physicians, 6; lawyers, 3.

**ELBRIDGE.**—This town was organized in 1829, and contains about thirty-seven lots of the original township of Camillus. The first settlements made in this town were in 1793. Josiah Buck, who surveyed the township of Camillus into lots, in 1791, came to this town 1793, with his family, in a large wagon, and settled on the lot now owned by Col. John Munro. A log, a large one of oak, by order of Squire Munro, was left without molestation for a number of years, as a memorial of the place where the first settlement was made in town. The large elm tree is still standing in the road, a little west of Mr. Munro's house by the side of a clear running brook, where Mr. Buck, with his family, took shelter till he could erect a comfortable cabin. They lived several weeks with no shelter but the forest, and the wagon served for parlor, kitchen, wardrobe and sleeping apartments. On this account the tree was highly venerated by the people in the neighborhood. Robert Fulton came in the same year a little after; and James Strong in 1794. Col. Chandler and Dr. Pickard an Indian root doctor, came soon after. A Mr. Potter came as the first blacksmith, 1795, and James Weisner and Nicholas Mickles, settled in town in 1796. Isaac Strong erected a

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saw mill in 1795, and a grist mill in 1798. The inhabitants who first settled in this town, had to go to Jamesville to mill. William Stevens located here in 1794, and built a saw mill about a mile west of Elbridge. He also built a store, now standing, and set up Dr. John Frisbie in it, in 1797, the first in town. Mr. Levi Clark built the first frame school house, in 1801. Josiah Buck kept the first tavern in town, 1793. Moses Carpenter another, soon after. William Stevens was the first Justice of the Peace in this town, 1794.

First settlers in the vicinity of Jordan, were Zenas Wright and Aaron Wright, in 1797; Martin Tickner, Reynolds Corey, Isaac Smith, Jonathan Rowley and Jonathan Babcock, came on the following year or soon after.

The first town meeting for Elbridge as a separate town, was held April, 1829, at the house of Horace Dodge. Squire Munro was chosen Moderator; Seneca Hale, Secretary; Timothy Brown, Supervisor; James McClure, Town Clerk.

Post Office first established 1825, Seneca Hale P. M. Succeeded by Frederick Benson, 1828. Previous to the establishment of a Post Office here the inhabitants received their mail matter at Skaneateles.

Jordan is a place rapidly increasing in size and consequence. Several large three and four story brick buildings, have been erected within the last two years, on the banks of the canal. There are 4 churches—1 Presbyterian, 1 Methodist, 1 Baptist and 1 Episcopalian. There are 2 grist and flouring mills, 3 saw mills, pump and machine shop, 2 furnaces, an oil mill, 6 dry goods stores, 1 hardware and sheet iron shop, 2 drug stores, 5 groceries and victualing shops, 4 storage and forwarding houses, 1 large distillery, consuming over 200 bushels of grain per day, and fattening over 1,200 hogs. There is also a flourishing academy here, which has been incorporated about seven years. It is subject to the visitation of the Regents of the University, and has drawn as much as \$400 from the Literature Fund in a single year. A newspaper was published at Jordan in 1831, entitled the Courier, by Frederick Prince;

continued about three years. The village of Jordan contains about 1,700 inhabitants.

Moses Carpenter, James Weisner, Squire Munro, Ezra and John Brackett, and Joseph and Aaron Colman, first settled at Elbridge village, in 1794 and 5. Mr. Munroe kept the first tavern at that place soon after.

The Baptist Society was organized at Elbridge, as the first Baptist Church in Camillus, 30th Dec., 1816, Squire Munro, Nathan Munro & Lemuel Crossman, trustees. Elder Crow, the first minister, first held meetings in a school house. Their house of worship erected 1816. Upon the erection of their house of worship, the conscientious Elder remarked that now they were proud enough to have a church edifice, they were too proud to keep him, and took his leave in an uncere- monious manner. The clergy since, have been in the following order; Elder Fuller, Elder Everts, Elder Butterfield, Elder Smitzer. The Presbyterian house of worship was erected 1830, the Methodist house the same year, and the Episcopal church was organized 1841. Edifice erected 1846. The first Pres- byterian clergymen were, Rev. Mr. Ingersoll and Mr. Page; Baptist, Elder Eddy and Elder Davis; the Episcopal clergy- man, Mr. — Rice. Congregational church organized in 1822, house of worship erected 1822-3. Jacob Campbell, Hiram F. Mather, Levi Clark, Jedediah Richards, trustees. Ministers have been in their order, Rev. Messrs. Jabez Chad- wick, Seth Porter, Timothy Stow, Medad Pomeroy, Sidney T. Mills, Lemuel W. Hamlin, Washington Thatcher, Charles Matoon.

Gideon Wilcoxon first established himself here as a lawyer, in 1813, Hiram F. Mather in 1818, afterwards Mr. Putnam. Dr. John Frisbie was the first physician, in 1797, Dr. Sweet in 1810, and Dr. Chichester after him. Post Office established 1813; Gideon Wilcoxon, P. M. Hiram F. Mather succeeded him, then Hendrick Wood, Mr. Munro, Wood and Munro.

The Munro Academy at Elbridge, was incorporated 1838. Nathan Munro, Esq., gave the building, lot, apparatus, libra- ry, and endowed it with a permanent fund of \$20,000. It is

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subject to the visitation of the Regents of the University, and has annually drawn from the Literature Fund, from \$150 to \$500. Like other institutions of the kind it has had its seasons of prosperity and adversity; at present it is flourishing. The Trustees have been enabled to lay by annually a surplus, which now amounts to a sum sufficient to build a new, large and commodious building, which the trustees contemplate doing next season.

There are three saw mills at Elbridge, a large and excellent grist mill, Miner's wooden ware factory, a large woolen factory, carriage factory, cabinet ware shops, an oil mill, &c. &c. Elbridge village contains about 800 inhabitants.

A little west of the village of Elbridge, between the Seneca Turnpike Road and the Skaneateles Creek, on lands of John Munro, is a large deposit of calcareous marl, but slightly mixed with argillaceous particles. This bed is about fifty rods long, from east to west, and about thirty broad; its depth is unknown. It has, however, been found to extend over twenty feet in depth, and what is something remarkable, there is no other deposit of the kind in the immediate vicinity. At no distant day it will prove a valuable auxiliary to the farmers of this neighborhood, as a manure.

South of this, about a mile above the plaster formations, and below the limestone, is a layer of dark drab or brown sandstone, about twenty inches thick, and is dug out in blocks from one to two feet square, and makes an excellent building material. It is slightly dotted with hydrate of iron, possesses a sharp grit and fucoids sometimes present their appearance on the upper surface, and contortions the result of concretionary action, are observable on the lower.

East of Elbridge Village, about two miles, are extensive deposits of calcareous tufa, which extend down the brook and valley to the town of Van Buren. It is used in place of stone for fencing. The swamp south of the road abounds with it. There are numerous plaster beds finely developed, all along the Skaneateles Creek, below Elbridge to Jordan, of excellent quality, and they are improved to a great extent. On

the banks of the creek, for fifty rods back, and half a mile in length, below the village of Elbridge, are numerous hopper-shaped cavities, some of which have been recently increased in size and depth. Some of them are fifteen or twenty feet in diameter, and eight or ten feet deep. Dr. Wheeler, in digging a well not long since, found floating in, with the water, particles or scales of plaster.

All along on the banks of the Seneca River, are found issues of weak brine, and in some places are springs of considerable volume, but none of sufficient strength to encourage the manufacture of salt, or exploration.

In the limestone ledge, about a mile below the village of Elbridge, on the bank of the creek, is a cave about twenty feet long, by ten broad in the center, oval shaped, and about seven feet high. In former years it was much visited as a curiosity. It was a notorious den and hiding place for wild beasts, and was first discovered in 1794, by Robert Fulton and William Stevens, who had quite an adventure with a bear, which they slew.

In this town are numerous evidences of ancient occupancy by the French. On lot eighty-three, are the remains of an Indian village, where have been found hundreds of stone axes, all of similar pattern, about three inches broad by one inch thick. Each implement had a groove around the center, by which the handle was fastened in a peculiar manner, by thongs made of the sinews of deer. Hundreds of flint arrow heads have also been found on this ancient site. A peculiar stone was found at this locality, about two feet square, which was undoubtedly used for sharpening these axes. It was hollowed out towards the center. In this hollow, water was probably placed, and the instruments whetted backwards and forwards till brought to proper shape. The lowest part of the concave surface was about four inches at the center. In the vicinity are appearances of coal pits, charcoal, &c.

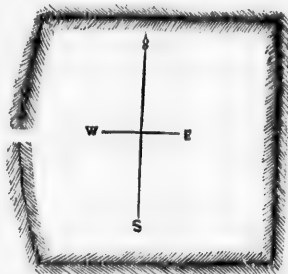
On lot eighty-one, north-east part, on the farm now occupied by Mr. John Munro, previously the Squire Munro farm, was formerly a fort, situated on the high ground, back of Mr.

Munro's house. In 1798, the discovery of heavy timber on the bankment, back of the west side

Within the enclosure of the ground. The fort was except a gate leading to a ravine on the west side. The whole area was about five acres of first quality, mainly of black soil, which is singular, on that the ground which lay strewn with fallen stones, or as "regular, like the loads of these stones for the purpose of making a fort. But one pitch of the fort exist in this town on account of the

At Fort Hill, about a mile north-west of the ancient works. It contained about five

Munro's house. When the first settlers came to this town, 1798, the ditch and embankment were easily traced, amid the heavy timber, which stood promiscuously, not only on the embankment, but in the ditch. This fort was square, except on the west side, the line curved a little outward from straight.



Within the enclosure was about an acre and a quarter of ground. The embankment was about two feet high all around, except a gateway on the west, about twelve feet wide. It was situated on a beautiful eminence, nearly surrounded by a deep ravine on the west, and a deep valley on the remaining sides. The whole area thus surrounded, contains about seventy-five acres of first rate land. The timber was large, consisting mainly of black oak, soft maple and small hemlocks. What is singular, on this and some other localities in this town is, that the ground was literally covered with pitch-pine knots, which lay strewn on the ground in the same order they had fallen, or as my informant, Col. John Stevens, remarked, "regular, like the ribs of a horse." Hundreds of wagon loads of these knots have been gathered and removed, for the purpose of making torches for fishing in the Seneca River. But one pitch-pine tree was known to the early settlers to exist in this town, and that was left standing for several years on account of its singularity.

At Fort Hill, on what is called the Purdy lot, about half a mile north-west from the last named, is another of these ancient works. This was of much larger dimensions, and contained about four and a half acres of ground. There were



two gateways, one on the east, the other on the west side.



This is situated on one of the highest elevations in the town. When first discovered, the embankment was nearly three feet high, and on it was an oak tree, more than four feet in diameter. On the south side were numerous holes, about two feet, deep and six feet apart, as if an entrenchment or circumvallation had been commenced and not finished. Large quantities of dark brown pottery, have been picked up on this-ground, and thousands of fresh water clam shells, such as are now abundant in the Seneca River. Mr. Squire M. Brown gives the following as the substance of a statement made to him several years ago by the late Squire Munro. On this locality was found an oaken box or chest, in a decayed state, which upon examination was found to contain a quantity of silk goods, of various colors. The folds and colors were easily distinguished. These, after a moment's exposure to the air, crumbled to dust. Several copper coins were also found with the silks, which were deposited in some of the Museums of New-York or Albany. These were found about the year 1800.

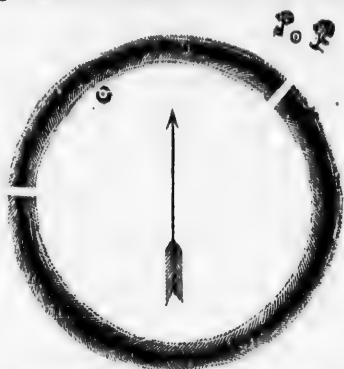
On lot eighty-four, on the farm now owned by Caleb Brown, Esq., about forty rods south of the road, was a circular fort which covered over three acres of ground. Around this was an embankment, about two feet higher than the interior area of the fort, and outside of the embankment, was a ditch four or five feet deep. There was a wide gateway on the west side, and a smaller one on the north-east, which gave communica-

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tion to a spring a short distance from the fort. In digging



about the western gateway, were found several pieces of timber, having the marks of iron tools upon them. In a well which was some fourteen feet deep, and had probably at some previous time been timbered up, was found a quantity of charred corn, of the variety called Virginia corn. Bushels of fragments of earthen ware have been picked up on this ground, and even to this day, there are multitudes of shells and fragments of shells lying around. This locality, which is at this time (1848) under the plow, can be easily traced by the almost black appearance of the soil. Skeletons and human bones, some of them of extraordinary size, were frequently turned up by the plow in former years. All these localities were convenient to durable springs of excellent running water.

On the site of Mr. Brown's house and garden, including a portion of the highway, was an ancient circular fort, containing little over an acre of ground, within which were evidences of a blacksmith's shop, such as cinders, charcoal, &c. Near all these vestiges of ancient fortification were found many Indian relics, which have often been related of other localities, and relics of those who had intercourse with them. From what can be gathered from observation and from history, this European occupancy was at, or nearly at the same time with that of the French missionary and trading establishments at

Onondaga and Pompey, and shows that large numbers of these people must have sojourned in this region, whose minute history is unknown.

At Jack's Rifts, when the whites first settled this town, the Onondagas had a large settlement, with an extensive clearing and a valuable orchard. They had also cleared off what is called the salt fields, in the town of Cato, and had a small settlement there. The country north of Seneca River and Oneida River was their favorite hunting ground.

Statistics for the town of Elbridge from census of 1845:

Number of inhabitants, 3,829; subject to military duty, 446; voters, 830; aliens, 170; paupers, 2; children attending Common Schools, 801; acres of improved land, 15,420; grist mills, 3; saw mills, 20; fulling mills, 1; carding works, 1; woolen factory, 1; iron works, 1; ashery, 1; tannery, 1; Academies, 2; Common Schools, 16; Churches—Baptist, 2; Presbyterian, 1; Episcopalian, 1; Congregational, 1; Methodist, 1; stores, 13; taverns, 9; groceries, 4; farmers, 648; merchants, 18; manufacturers, 37; mechanics, 215; clergymen, 5; physicians, 9; lawyers, 5.

VAN BUREN.—This town was erected and organized in 1829. It was taken from the north part of the original township of Camillus, and received its name from the Hon. Martin Van Buren, then newly elected Governor of the State of New-York. The first settlements were made in this town, (then Marcellus,) in 1792, to 1794, first by Joseph Wilson, and about the same time by William Lindsay, David Haynes, John McHarrie, Reuben Smith and James Wells. Soon after, at what is called the Warner settlement, Eleazar Dunham and Heman Warner—and Benjamin Bolton, at Jack's Rifts. Phineas Barnes, Jonathan Skinner, Isaac Earll, William Lakin, Charles H. Tull and others, in different parts of the town, previous to 1810. At this period the country was entirely new and presented few attractions for settlement, most people preferring the higher grounds of the townships of Camillus and Marcellus, on account of their then more airy and

healthy situation, and the large flocks of sheep which the farmers raised. Their flocks would leap over and over the hills, very plenty of them, south, by the

The first settlement was a village, where was erected the first school, other, soon after. A Post Office was established, which gave it importance. He was Job Nicholls, who was attracted to the place, and destroyed.

The first settlement was Theodore Poole, in 1829. The first meeting for worship was held by Jonathan S. and second in 1830. A meeting for worship was held in Dunham, 26th Nov. 1830, and was chosen S.

The first settlement was of the denomination, and mode of worship was a society at Warner's. Canton, was one of the first ministers, Guthrie and Nichols, first settled in Canton, and next in Canton is a small settlement on the Erie Canal.

healthy situation. In these early times, wolves were numerous and troublesome, often doing immense damage to the flocks of sheep. As a precaution against their depredations, the farmers were obliged to erect high enclosures and fold their flocks at night, and even then, they would occasionally leap over and destroy them. Bears were common, and deer very plenty, having been driven from the higher grounds south, by the clearing up of the forests in that quarter.

The first settlement in this town, approaching anything like a village, was at what is now called Ionia. Phineas Bates erected the first frame house, in 1808, and Isaac Earll another, soon after, and Charles H. Tull, another. The first Post Office was established in town, in 1816, and called Ionia, which gave name to the village; Charles H. Tull, Post Master. He was succeeded by Oliver Nicholls, and Oliver by Job Nicholls. After the completion of the canal, business was attracted to that quarter and the prospects of Ionia were destroyed.

The first lawyer who established himself in this town was Theodore Popell, in 1818. The second was Medad Curtis, in 1820. The first physician who practiced in this town, was Jonathan S. Buel, in 1815, at Ionia. The first at Canton, and second in town, was Wm. Laughlin, 1812. First town meeting for Van Buren, was held at the house of Ebenezer Dunham, 26th of March, 1829, at which, Gabriel Tappan was chosen Supervisor, and Abel Tryon, Town Clerk.

The first religious society, formed in this town, was of the denomination, termed "*Christians*," inclining to the Baptist mode of worship, at Ionia. Presbyterian and Methodist society at Warner's settlement, 1830. The Baptist society at Canton, was organized 1832, or 1833. Obadiah E. Morrell, the first minister in the Christian house of worship, and John Guthrie and Benjamin Rider, succeeded him. Elder Reynolds, first officiated as pastor in the Baptist society, at Canton, and next after him, Elders Brown, Hough and Bates. Canton is a smart little village, situated on the Jordan level of the Erie Canal. It has grown up since the canal was completed,

and contains about forty houses, and over two hundred inhabitants. The Post Office is called Canal, and was established in 1828. There are two other Post Offices in town, called Van Buren, and Van Buren Center.

The water power in this town is but slight, except on the Seneca River, the streams being small, and the surface level. Dead Creek is the largest stream, and is very sluggish. On the banks of the streams in this town, is an abundance of marl and calcareous tufa, which presents itself frequently, in large quantities, and the time will soon come when these marl beds, will be used as a dressing for the sandy soils in the neighborhood, and may be made useful to the southern towns.

The town of Van Buren is rapidly improving. It is generally level, the soil alternating in sandy and clay loam, is very productive. The dwellings are mostly new, and present an air of comfort and taste, not so frequently displayed in the older settled towns. One feature is particularly worthy of notice—the barns are beautiful structures in their kind, very many of which are handsomely clapboarded and ornamented with a heavy cornice and painted. These evidences of prosperity and thrift, tell well for the industry, perseverance and taste of the farming portion of the community.

Statistics of the town of Van Buren, taken from the census of 1845:—

Number of inhabitants, 3057; subject to military duty, 285; voters, 688; aliens, 35; children attending common schools, 766; grist mills, 2; saw mills, 6; carding machines, 2; iron works, 1; Tanneries, 1; churches—Baptist, 2; Congregational, 1; Unitarian, 1; common schools, 16; taverns, 4; stores, 3; groceries, 5; farmers, 534; merchants, 5; manufacturers, 27; mechanics, 157; clergymen, 8; physicians, 6; lawyers, 4.

FABIUS.—This town was taken from Pompey in 1798 and included two military townships, viz; Fabius and Tully, and included all the present towns of Fabius, Tully, Truxton and Preble, with parts of Spafford and Otisco, being ten by twenty

miles in extent into a town. The land was settled by persons taken from the

The forest of hemlock with some pine commenced at a point and Manlius dense forest or the curling or open roof been made in ed in perfect conscious of the domestic neous herbage directed the familiar sound and docile corner door of his house to labor, the

The first settler Timothy Jerold old Stockbridge houses in town During the fall of Massachusetts St. John, now the only settlement ing was held at which Time Moore town of Elijah St. John William Blanchard ham, constable of the town of

miles in extent. In 1803 Tully was taken from it, and erected into a town by itself. In 1808, when the county of Cortland was set off from Onondaga, the town of Truxton was taken from the southern part of Fabius.

The forests of this town were heavy. The timber consisted of hemlock, beech, maple, basswood, elm, ash and butternut, with some pine and oak. The settlement of this town commenced at a somewhat later period, than the towns of Pompey and Manlius. The first settlers erected their log cabins in the dense forests, and the only guides to them were marked trees, or the curling smoke, as it ascended from their rude chimneys or open roofs. The first marks of civilization had not then been made in this wilderness land. The noxious beasts roamed in perfect freedom, and the wild deer bounded at will, unconscious of danger. The valleys were nature's pasture ground, the domestic herds roamed at will and grew fat on the spontaneous herbage, liberally provided for them. The tinkling bell, directed the anxious settler to the object of his search, and its familiar sounds were joyfully followed, till the obedient ox, and docile cow, were brought by the sturdy woodman to the door of his humble dwelling. The one a welcome auxiliary to labor, the other an indispensable help to sustenance.

The first settlers in this town, were Mr. Josiah Moore and Timothy Jerome, who settled here in 1794, and were from old Stockbridge, Massachusetts. They erected the first log houses in town, and for the first year, were entirely alone. During the following year, several other families removed from Massachusetts to Fabius, among whom, were Colonel Elijah St. John, now, (1847) upwards of eighty years of age, and the only settler of that period living. The first town meeting was held at the house of Joseph Tubbs, April 3d, 1798, at which Timothy Jerome was chosen supervisor, and Josiah Moore town clerk; Benjamin Brown, Timothy Walker and Elijah St. John, assessors; Joseph Tubbs, James Cravath and William Blanchard, commissioners of highways; Ezekiel Dunham, constable. These may be considered the primary settlers of the town of Fabius. Second town meeting, was held at

the same place, 2d April, 1799, Timothy Jerome, chosen supervisor, Benjamin Brown, town clerk. Mr. Jerome was the first, and for a long time the only Justice of the Peace in this town, and for the surrounding country. The first frame house was erected by Josiah Moore in 1800. Others were erected soon after, and the inhabitants soon abounded in all the comforts and conveniences of life. In 1810 the population was almost 1,900. The only means of subsistence, to which these early pioneers were accessible, were provisions brought with them from the east, for the first two years, except deer and some kinds of small game which were found here in abundance. Wild plums and blackberries were plenty, and these, with milk, satisfied the wants, and furnished the luxuries of their boards. The first mills to which they had recourse short of Herkimer, were Danforth's on the Butternut creek.

The first school taught in this town, was by Miss Jerome, wife of the late Judge James Geddes. She had received a competent education before leaving New-England. The school house was built of logs and the only one in town, and for a year or two was the only seat of learning in that portion of country. The first house of worship erected in this town, was the Baptist at Fabius Center, now Franklinville; society organized, 21st November, 1806, under the title of "the first Baptist Society of Fabius." Richard Wheat, Simeon Keeny, jr., Samuel Moray, Lewis Howell and Jasper Partridge, trustees. The association was afterwards revived, and Elijah St. John, Jonathan Stanley, Aaron Benedict, John Phelps, Stephen Tripp, Simeon Keeny, Nathaniel Bacon, Benjamin Lucas, jr., and George Petit, trustees. The first organized society was in 1805, under the title of the First Society of Fabius,—Elijah Miles and David Joy, trustees. In 1836, a newspaper was established at Fabius, entitled the "AMERICAN PATRIOT," by Joseph Tenny, and continued about three years.

The soil of this town is better adapted to raising coarse grain and grazing, than wheat, although wheat has been raised, enough ordinarily for home consumption. The marketing at the earliest period of settlement for surplus produce, was main-

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ly done at Utica, Whitestown and Herkimer. It was not uncommon for a farmer to take a load of produce upon an ox-sled, make his way to one of the above places, dispose of his products, and lay out the avails for necessities sufficient for the year; and many a noble matron of that period thought it often enough to visit "*the Store*" once in a year, to procure the luxuries, and fashions for her daughters. The truth is, necessities then, were really so; they kept soul and body united. And luxuries were only another name for those articles which could not possibly be dispensed with.

The streams in this town are small, most of which are tributaries to the Susquehanna, through the Tioughnioga Creek. On these small, but durable streams, numerous saw mills, four grist mills and four tanneries have been erected, but are not of sufficient power for more important machinery. The Butternut and Limestone Creeks, take rise in this town and afford some water power. The first grist and saw mills erected, in this town, were by Thomas Miles on the Butternut Creek west of Apulia. Franklinville and Apulia, are post villages in this town, and are brisk business places. The first Post Office was at Truxton village, (then in Fabius). Established about 1803 or 1804. At a much later period Post Offices were established at Apulia, and Franklinville. Elijah Miles was the first State Senator from this town. The first Assemblyman, Jonathan Stanley, in 1812. Josiah Tubbs was the first tavern keeper, in 1797, near Tully, at whose house town meetings were first held.

On the west side of the Limestone creek, two miles south of Delphi, is an extensive deposit of calcareous tufa, rising abruptly, some fifty feet from the valley below. Intermingled, are various substances, of vegetable deposit, such as brush-wood, leaves, herbaceous plants, &c. There are kilns at this place, for the extensive manufacture of lime. At one of these, the tufa is moistened and moulded into forms or large tiles, about ten inches square, and four inches thick, and burned similar to bricks. At another, it is burned without this preparation. It produces a beautiful, perfect, unadulterated white

lime, much sought for whitewashing, and for hard-finish walls. There are the three varieties found here, the earthy, the solid or horse-bone commonly so called, and the ferruginous. There are occasional instances, where the tufa assumes a semi-chryselline appearance, like alabaster, and might be obtained for ornamental purposes, similar to that beautiful substance.

Schools are numerous and flourishing. The interest felt for the cause of education, is highly creditable, and laudable efforts are put forth to sustain and improve it. Connected with the early settlement of this town is a little incident, which, though unimportant, happily illustrates the characteristics of the hardy pioneers of this favored spot. It is a hunt for a lost child. The family had erected their log cabin in 1799. Col. St. John and Judge Miles, had just taken up their abode here. This family had three or four small children, and among them an interesting little girl, perhaps three years old. The children had played about in the bushes near the house, as usual, and when night approached they all came in, except the little girl, who was missing. The mother called, but no voice responded. Darkness came on, and the blackness of night excluded every object from view. It requires no effort to describe the keenness of the suffering and agony which pervaded the bosoms of the bereaved family group. The alarm was speedily given, to the scattering population, for miles around. Each man with a bark torch in hand, repaired to the scene of distress. The woods were thoroughly scoured by torch-light, but no child could be found. During the night the whole country had been alarmed, and by day-light the next morning a large force was ready upon the ground, to proceed in search. The men were marshaled under the command of officers chosen on the spot, and the search was systematically renewed. As the line swept around in a wide circuit, words could be readily passed from one to another, so as to keep up a constant and regular communication throughout the whole extent. About ten o'clock in the forenoon, word passed through the line—"child found." This intelligence produced the most frantic joy, and complete disorder. He that could leap the

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highest, run the fastest, or was nearest the house, got there first. Judge Miles, now no more, was the fortunate finder. The child had lain on a nice little bed of leaves, between two logs, and when the Judge stepped upon one of them, the little innocent was standing on her feet, and looking him full in the face, with a smile of affection upon her lip saluted him with the endearing cry of papa. The child had apparently slept well and exhibited no signs of suffering, though the night had been chilly and cold. When the child was restored to the arms of its mother, sprightly and cheerful, her sighs of agony were turned to tears of joy, which flowed most copiously. Indeed the sturdy hunters and hardy axmen, who witnessed it, could hardly refrain from weeping.

According to the census of 1845, there are in the town of Fabius:—

Inhabitants, 2,529; aliens, 8; voters, 567; subject to military duty, 135; paupers, 3; children attending Common Schools, 742; acres of improved land, 18,238; grist mills, 3; saw mills, 12; fulling mills, 2; carding machines, 2; asheries, 2; tanneries, 4; Churches,—Baptist, 2; Methodist, 2; Congregational or Presbyterian, 1; common schools, 20; taverns, 4; stores, 5; merchants, 10; lawyers, 2; clergymen, 5; physicians, 3; farmers, 361; mechanics, 91.

TULLY.—This was one of the original townships of the Military Tract. In the first organization of towns, it was included in the town of Pompey. In 1803, the township of Tully was set off in a town by itself, and in 1808, when the county of Cortland was erected, the towns of Truxton and Preble were taken from the southern portions of Fabius and Tully. A portion of the township was afterwards still further divided in 1811, by adding a part to the town of Spafford, so that at the present time the town is but about five miles square. Settlements were commenced in this town in 1795, by farmers principally from the New England States, who hold their land in fee simple. The first settler in this town was David Owen, who came here in 1795. Directly after, came James Cravath,

William Trowbridge, and others. The first log house in town was built by David Owen, in 1795, and Timothy Walker built the first frame house, in 1797, and Moses Nash the second, both in Tully Village. Peter Henderson was the first child born in town, 1796.

In early times the people from these southern towns, and from Homer, Solon, Cincinnatus, Marathon, &c., used to come down to Jackson's, Ward's and Sanford's Mills, with drays loaded with wheat and corn, drawn by oxen, to get their grinding done. These drays were made of the crotches of trees hewed out and boards pinned across. Ten bushels was considered a pretty large load to drag along twenty or thirty miles, on such a rude vehicle, with one yoke of oxen. The first store in this town, and at Tully Village, was by Moses Nash, in 1803. Previous to this, trading was done at Pompey Hill, and what is now called Truxton Village, where small stores had previously been opened. In 1805, John Meeker, one of the most extensive merchants in the country, succeeded Mr. Nash, and took the lead of business and trade in that part of the country. Nicholas Lewis opened a tavern in Tully Village in 1802, and Jacob Johnson succeeded him in 1807; he was succeeded by William Trowbridge. The Hamilton and Skaneateles Turnpike was laid out in 1806, from Richfield through Brookfield, Hamilton and Fabius, to the outlet of Otisco Lake, thence to the outlet of the Skaneateles Lake. Lemuel Fitch, Samuel Marsh, Elisha Payne, David Smith, Elijah St. John, Comfort Tyler, Samuel Tyler, Thaddeus Edwards and Elnathan Andrews, were the principal movers in procuring the passage of the act of incorporation, and obtaining share-holders, and getting the road laid out, worked and finished. This enterprise opened through this town and others in its vicinity, a way of communication, which added essentially to the business and prosperity of the country through which it passed. It was not long before its advantages and effects were realized and appreciated. It gave a spur to business; it gave confidence to community, and the results which have flowed from it have been salutary and satisfactory. The

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first school established in town was kept in Timothy Walker's barn, and taught by Miss Ruth Thorp, in 1801. We see here what is not noticeable in every town, that a school was the first public object to which the inhabitants turned their attention, thus placing before their children the means of making themselves useful members of society and distinguished citizens. A log school house was erected in 1804, at Tully Village, and was succeeded by a frame one in 1809. Others soon made their appearance in different parts of the town, and education in the common schools, with its multifarious advantages, has always been well appreciated, and from first to last has made commendable progress. From the commencement of the settlement of the town, religious meetings were held in several neighborhoods, at barns, and in cold inclement weather, at people's houses. It was thought no hardship in those days for a whole family to walk a few miles to meeting, father carrying the baby, and the elder children trudging along on foot, aided by the mother in crossing the small streams and muddy places. The Rev. Mr. Riddle, a Presbyterian missionary from New England, was the first clergyman who officiated in this town. A large proportion of the new settlers were of that way of thinking, bringing with them from New England, their high toned moral and religious sentiments and opinions, which were the ground work here in the wilderness, of their spiritual prosperity. The meetings of Mr. Riddle are represented by the few who yet linger here and were witnesses of his labors, and have sat under his teachings, as having been highly interesting. He organized a Presbyterian society in 1804. It was organized anew under the Rev. Mr. Parsons. This society was kept up till about 1830, when it was discontinued, so that now there is no society of that denomination in town. A Baptist society was organized at an early period of the history of the town, with but fourteen members. Elder Abbot was their first spiritual teacher, and also Elder Rufus Freeman. Meetings were held in barns and at individuals houses, till their new house of worship was erected in 1824. A Methodist society was organized in 1828

or 1829. Their first preacher was Elder Sayres, a circuit preacher, who succeeded well in his labors, and drew together very respectable congregations. He was succeeded by Elder Puffer, familiarly known, and to many perhaps better, by the title of "Old Chapter and Verse," for in his discourses he was remarkable for his numerous quotations of Scripture, never omitting the chapter and verse where they might be found. There is a Methodist church and society at Vesper, and a society calling themselves Disciples, in this town. The first Post Office was established at Tully, in 1815 or 1816, Mr. Nicholl Howell, Post Master. He was succeeded by William Trowbridge. Previous to this, mail matter was obtained from Preble Corners, then the central point in the town of Tully. The first and earliest settlers received their papers and letters at Pompey Hill Post Office. Vesper Post Office established in 1827, William Clark Post Master; and Tully Valley Post Office 1836, George Salisbury, Post Master. It is said there is not now a single Revolutionary soldier or pensioner in town. The first grist mill in town was erected by Peter Van Camp, in 1810, about three miles west of Tully Village, and a saw mill at the same place and time. The number has since increased to three grist mills and eight saw mills. There is here an almost perpendicular fall, of about ninety feet, with only one break, which in high water presents a very beautiful and picturesque appearance. There is a swamp near the village of Tully, from which issue two streams, one of which flows south, being the head of the Tioughnioga Creek, the head waters of the Susquehanna, and Chesapeake Bay. The other branch flows north, forming the head of the Butternut Creek, flowing on to the St. Lawrence. Both these streams are of sufficient capacity for driving mills and other machinery, and are so employed. One branch of the Onondaga Creek rises in this town farther west, and the Tully lakes also find their way to the Susquehanna. The town is well watered by springs and brooks, has high ridges of hills on the east and west boundaries. But its valleys are extensive, rich and productive. Tully Flats are much admired for their

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beauty and fertility. This town is about eighteen miles south of Syracuse. In 1810, it had a population of about one thousand and one hundred inhabitants. At the organization of the town in 1803, the first town meeting was held at the house of Samuel Trowbridge, on the first of May. Phineas Howell was chosen Supervisor, Amos Skeel, Town Clerk, Jacob Johnson, Samuel Cravath, Solomon Babcock, Assessors, and Floyd Howell, James Cravath and Solomon Babcock, Commissioners of Highways; second and third years, the same were re-elected. Job L. Lewis and Moses Nash were Justices of the Peace 1808 to 1812. Mr. Nash afterwards moved to Indiana, became a distinguished man, and at a State General Election, came within one vote of being elected Governor of that State.

Amos Skeel first Justice of the Peace, 1803. Considerable matter which would properly belong to this town has been embraced in the town of Fabius, because from 1798 to 1803, Tully was a part of Fabius. Reader will therefore consider that those five years of first settlement, the two towns were one, and events identical.

According to the census of 1845, there was in the town of Tully:—

Number of inhabitants, 1,621; subject to military duty, 125; voters, 378; aliens, 13; children attending Common Schools, 435; acres of improved land, 10,909; grist mills, 4; saw mills, 5; carding machines, 2; woolen factory 1; trip hammer, 1; asheries, 2; tanneries, 2; Churches—Baptist, 1; Seven Day Baptist, 1; Methodist, 2; common schools, 9; taverns, 4; stores, 4; farmers, 190; merchants, 4; manufacturers, 1; mechanics, 60; clergymen, 3; physicians, 3; lawyers, 1.

OTISCO.—WYLLYS GAYLORD.—Men compose a nation; their lives and transactions constitute its character and history, and favored indeed is that people, when blessed with such a man as the subject of this sketch. Such men leave the impress of their minds and of their deeds, not only upon those



with whom they may become familiar, but the world at large is improved, and succeeding generations reap the benefit of their precepts and examples. Their character is stamped upon all with whom they may chance to come in contact, and their deeds elevate and improve mankind.

Wyllys Gaylord was born in Bristol, Connecticut, 1792. In 1801, Lemon Gaylord, the father of Wyllys, moved to the town of Otisco, he being the third settler in the town. At that time his son was but nine years old. At this early age, the deep shade of an almost unbroken forest, as the wandering pioneers penetrated its dark recesses in the beginning of summer, guided only by "blazed trees," made an impression upon his mind and excited a passion for woodland scenery which was never effaced. Admiration, and even enthusiasm filled his mind, as in after years he spoke of the scenes and perils of early forest life. In a letter written but a short time before his death, he says:\* "When we entered these forests, the heavy foliage wore its richest green, and the elm, the maple and the linden, were successively laden with flowers; and never shall I forget the rich, the indescribable perfume which filled the air, as tree after tree was cut down; and day after day passed away before the blossoms had ceased to exhale their odors from their withered cups."

At this early period, it was his misfortune to be necessarily deprived from the advantages of schools; for as yet, none had been established in the town. But to compensate in a measure for this, the father at intervals gave wholesome lessons of instruction. By these he was benefitted, and limited as it was, it laid the foundation of his future usefulness. At the early age of twelve years, he was violently attacked with a rheumatic affection, which resulted in a curvature of the spine, and completely unfitted him in all after life for any active or laborious pursuit. His desire for knowledge and his love for books was such, that physical infirmity presented no obstacle to his researches after knowledge. Being unable to

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\* Cultivator, Vol. I, p. 137.

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attend school, he studied such books as chance happened to throw in his way. The catalogue at that early period was small; but such as he had access to, he mastered with great avidity, aided in the more difficult portions by those to whom circumstances gave him admission. He was remarkable for his assiduity in *studying* all books which came within his reach; and at an early age his mind was stored with a fund of intellectual wealth, from which in after years he could draw with pleasure and profit. Often has he been known to sit for hours under the shade of some wide spread tree, listening to the songs of the birds and the chirping of insects, pursuing his studies with pencil and note book in hand preserving the current of his thoughts. While thus anxiously engaged in the quiet pursuit of knowledge, and in the enjoyment of such a measure of health as permitted him to engage occasionally in the lighter labors of the field, he met with an accident, which entailed upon him a vast amount of suffering, and rendered him nearly helpless until death. It was occasioned by a fall, from which at the time, he noticed only a slight bruise on the left arm. It afterwards swelled and became a running sore inclining to scrofula, causing a sloughing off of the bone, rendering his arm ever after entirely useless. This affection of the arm continued for many years, and when it healed, an abscess formed in one of his sides, which was troublesome, with occasional alleviations till the day of his death. Notwithstanding these bodily infirmities and excessive pain, he was remarkable for his cheerful and happy disposition, and under the most acute suffering, was never known to complain. His physical constitution was exceedingly slight. His weight was less than one hundred pounds, low in stature, and by no means prepossessing in personal appearance; but when he opened his mouth, the melody of his voice, the richness of his tones, and his happy manner of expression, immediately dissipated all preconceived opinions of his inferiority.

His favorite resort was to the beautiful shore of the lake in the vicinity of his house; there, while gazing upon the charm-

ing view, inhaling the balmy breeze, and contemplating the works of a beneficent Creator, his mind was refreshed, his imagination enlivened, and from these quiet resources have flowed in uncontaminated streams the workings of his admirable genius.

For more than twenty years he was a valuable contributor to many of the scientific journals of the day, in this country; and in several instances, to some of the most popular magazines of Europe. His contributions to the newspaper press of this country, on every variety of topic, literary, scientific, religious, miscellaneous, and occasionally poetry, have been numerous and of the highest order of excellence. He was the author of several prize essays upon various subjects, published in the magazines of New-York, Boston and Philadelphia. It is believed, that in no instance where his talents were exerted, has he failed in taking a premium. It has been remarked by Judge Buell and other distinguished men, that he had not his equal in the land as a ready prose writer. He composed with wonderful facility and so correctly, that his first productions needed little or no criticism, extra embellishment or correction. He possessed the most fascinating colloquial powers, and his conversations were marked for being highly intellectual, exceedingly chaste, agreeable and instructive. He had made the study of medicine an accessory to his pleasures and pursuits; and physicians who have enjoyed his acquaintance, award to him the merit of being theoretically, a man of science, well skilled in all the minutiae of the *Materia Medica*, and second to few in the depths of investigation, and in correctness of judgment.

He was fond of music and possessed considerable mechanical genius. He constructed a very fine toned organ, without the aid of an instrument to look upon, solely from a drawing and description given in the Edinburgh Encyclopedia. With this he beguiled his leisure hours, and made that time agreeable, which to many hangs irksome and heavy. Among his early productions was a history of the late war; he was then quite young, it being in the year 1816-17. The manuscript

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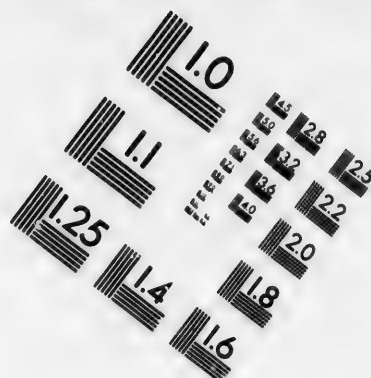
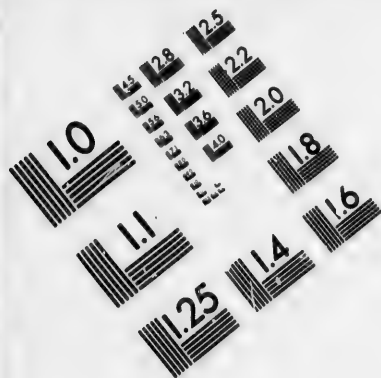
was offered to a publisher, who judging more from the personal appearance of the author than from the merits of the production, discouraged him and his father from proceeding with its publication. This manuscript, since his reputation as a writer has been confirmed, has been sought for with great solicitude, but has never been re-produced. The refusal to publish this his early production, fortunately was not a cause of discouragement, but he pressed vigorously on, till he reached a high elevation in the walks of literature and science.

His writings collected in a volume, would no doubt be received by the public with approbation and delight; and some one who is competent to do justice to his merits, we trust may yet come forward as his historiographer, and do honor to his memory.

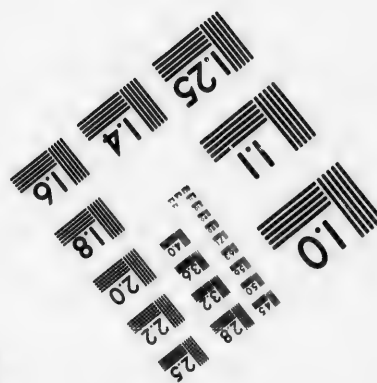
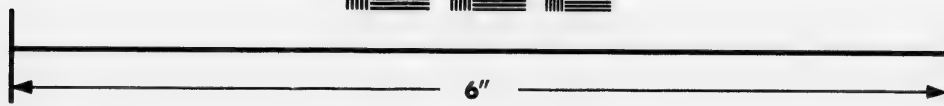
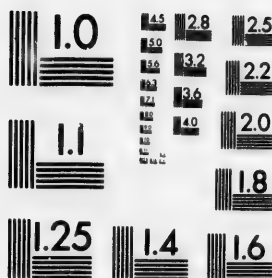
The versatility of his talents, the rapidity with which he wrote, and the variety of his productions, have excited the admiration and astonishment of his friends. To him the agricultural portion of community more than any other, are greatly indebted for his scientific and literary labors in their behalf. In every department of his darling profession was he thoroughly versed, and with Virgil, in truth might he say, "*Cecini pascua, rura, duces.*" His essays on practical, scientific and theoretical agriculture are the most valuable, and will be the most enduring of his writings. The services he has rendered his country in these departments are incalculable, and are a rich legacy, which will endure to remote generations. His connection with the old Genesee Farmer and Albany Cultivator, from 1833 to 1844, will long be remembered with lively interest. He labored to elevate the condition of society and to benefit mankind; and the town of Otisco and the county of Onondaga will feel the power of his influence in the vista of future years; and long will the dwellers in this favored county deplore the loss of an eminent man.

He died without a groan or struggle after a short illness of thirty-three hours, at Howlet Hill, town of Camillus, Lime Rock Farm, on the 27th of March, 1844, in the fifty-first year of his age. He had been for more than thirty years an ex-





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emplary member of the Presbyterian Church, and expired in the hope of a joyful resurrection.

OTISCO.—This town was erected in 1806, from parts of Pompey, Marcellus and Tully. It is centrally situated, about fifteen miles south of Syracuse. It is about five miles long and little more than four broad. Settlements were commenced in 1801, five years before its organization, while the territory was comprised in the townships of Tully, Pompey and Marcellus. The first settler in the town, was Chauncey Rust, from Massachusetts. In 1801, his son, Timothy Rust, was the first white child born in the town. Other settlers came in the same and the following years; among the earliest of whom, were Charles J. Merriman, from Connecticut; Otis Baker, from Massachusetts; Josiah Clark, Lemon Gaylord, Benjamin and Amos Cowles, Daniel Bennett, Elias and Jared Thayer, Henry Elethrop, Samuel, Ebenezer and Luther French, Jared and Noah Parsons, Rufus Clapp and others, all from New England. The first settlement of the town was very rapid. The first tavern kept in town was by Benoni Merriman, in a log house near Otisco Center, in 1804; Michael Johnson succeeded him. Jesse Swan was the first merchant in 1808, and Josiah Everett, afterwards.

First marketing was done at Albany, with teams, and milling was done at Jamesville and Manlius, until a grist mill was built in 1806, by Esquire Merriman. Saw mills were erected by him and others, about the same time, in different parts of the town. Elias Thayer built the first frame house, 1805, and Oliver Tuttle the next. A Post Office was established, 1814, Dr. Luther French, first Post Master.

The first school was established in a log school house, 1804, soon after was built a frame school house. The first practicing physician, who settled in town was Dr. Jonathan S. Judd, in 1806, and Dr. Luther French, in 1818. There has never been but one lawyer residing in town, John Thomas, Esq., and he remained but a short time, and moved to Cortland.

The "Washington Religious Congregational Society of Otisco," at Otisco Center, was organized 1804, by the Rev.

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Hugh Wallace. A house of worship was put up but not completed, in 1807. The present meeting house was built in 1816, a very neat and commodious house, with a long string of sheds on the south, west and north, capable of sheltering nearly one hundred vehicles. Rev. Geo. Colton officiated as first pastor, in 1806-7. After him was ordained in the parish, Rev. William J. Wilcox, who remained about thirteen years. Rev. Charles Johnson succeeded him a short time. Rev. Richard S. Corning, was pastor from 1824 to 1833; he was succeeded by Rev. Messrs. Levi Parsons, Levi Griswold, Sidney Mills, Thaddeus Pomeroy, Clement Lewis and Addison K. Strong. This society, and its ministers, have had a very healthful influence on the generation which has grown up under its precepts and teachings. Otisco Center, is a lively inland village, of about one hundred houses, shops, stores, &c., and is deservedly noted for the hospitality, sobriety and intelligence of its inhabitants. There is no tavern in the place, and but two in the town.

Amber, a snug, pleasant little village in this town, is situated on the north-east bank of Otisco Lake, of about the same dimensions and character as Otisco Center. It has a small woolen factory, a saw mill, a store and a Post Office.

The Amber religious society, was organized 6th of September, 1824, Miles Bishop, Robert Kenyon, Barber Kenyon, Isaac Briggs and Samuel Steward, Trustees. The society have since erected a convenient and tasteful house of worship. There are two Methodist societies in town, but without settled or local preachers.

The first town meeting was held at the house of Daniel Bennett, 1st of April, 1806. Dan Bradley, of Marcellus, Chairman, and Dan Bradley and Timothy Copp, Esqrs., presiding Justices. Judah Hopkins was chosen Supervisor, and Josephus Baker, Town Clerk, and Noah Parsons, Lemon Gaylord and Josephus Baker, assessors. An extra town meeting was held in the month of August following, at the school house, near Daniel Bennett's tavern, at which a committee of

Three, were chosen to ascertain the center of the town, in order to centrally locate public buildings.

The principal forests of this section were heavy and consisted, on the hills, mostly of deciduous trees. In the valleys, were hemlock, and some pine. After it was cleared, (which was done at great labor and expense,) the soil proved productive, and yielded abundant crops of wheat, corn and other kinds of grain. This town is well watered with abundant springs and small streams, and is well adapted to dairy and sheep husbandry. The face of the country is uneven, nevertheless, the soil is fertile, and most of it arable. From what has been generally related of this town, it is very much underrated. Its present appearance would compare favorably with any town in the county. Its inhabitants are hardy, industrious, frugal and independent, attentive to their own business, out of debt, and have the means of sustaining themselves. Not a pauper or lawyer is there in town, nor a man unable or unwilling to pay his school bills. Gospel and schools are well supported, hard times are unknown. It is said a hundred dollars could not be lent in this town. None are very rich, and none are very poor. The condition of this town, is very much of that desirable kind, so happily described in the old Chinese aphorism, as follows :

"Where spades grow bright, and idle swords grow dull,  
Where jails are empty, and where barns are full,  
Where church paths are by frequent feet outworn,  
Law court-yards weedy, silent and forlorn,  
Where doctors foot it, and where farmers ride,  
Where age abounds, and youth is multiplied,  
Where these signs are, they truly indicate,  
A happy people, and well governed State."

There is a richness and beauty unsurpassed, in the scenery as one looks from hill to hill—the fields laden with the golden harvest, and the woodlands giving shade and variety to the prospect. The Otisco Lake bounds the town on the west. It was called by the Indians, Otskah, sometimes Kaioongk. This lake is about five miles long, and one broad—a beautiful sheet of water, skirted by cultivated fields to the water's edge, variegated with woodland and pasture grounds. The red man

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anciently cast his lines and nets in the pure clear waters of the Otskah, and was rewarded for his labor, with abundance of trout and smaller fish. Recently his successors have introduced the perch and pickerel, which are becoming abundant. In former times, the Onondagas had a path from their village to this lake, whither they came to fish, and hunt the deer, as he came to quench his thirst at the brink.

There is a small, weak salt spring on the west side of the Otisco Lake, nearly opposite the village of Amber, on the margin where deer used to frequent, to obtain the cooling condiment.

There are no quarries of good building stone in this town, the ledges of rocks are mostly red and brown shale. In the northern section of this town, on the road from Onondaga South Hollow to Otisco, is one of the most extensive deposits of what is termed by Mr. Vanuxem, in the Geology of the third district of New-York, "*Marcellus goniatite*."

This singular deposit seems to be about ten feet deep, and exhibits at the points exposed to the surface, millions of specimens of what are termed "*horn rocks*," from one to three inches in diameter, and from two to twelve inches long, slightly curved. These are isolated and can be picked up in any quantities. They are of adulterated, dark brown limestone, and are the remains of molusca deposited at some unknown period, and are worthy the attention of the geologist. The same strata appears in other parts of the town, though not as prominent. They lie underneath the red shale.

Statistics for the town of Otisco, taken from the census of 1845:—

Number of inhabitants, 1701; subject to military duty, 127; voters, 400; aliens, 11; children attending common schools, 408; acres of improved land, 12899; grist mills, 1; saw mills, 8; woolen factory, 1; Tanneries, 2; Churches—Congregational, 1; Methodist, 1; common schools, 14; taverns, 2; stores, 4; farmers, 269; merchants, 4; manufacturers, 20; mechanics, 32; clergy 2; physicians, 3.

**SPAFFORD**—was erected into a town in 1811, from portions of the townships of Sempronius, Marcellus and Tully. The boundaries have since been materially altered. At present, it is comprised of eight lots lying east of Skaneateles Lake, being part of the original township of Sempronius; sixteen lots of the north-west part of the township of Tully, and thirteen lots of the south part of the township of Marcellus. It is about ten miles long by three broad, running from north-west to south-east. This town received its name from Horatio Gates Spafford, L.L.D., author of the *Gazetteer of New-York*. The first settler within the present limits of the town, was Gilbert Palmer, who located himself on lot seventy-six, township of Marcellus, in the fall of 1794. He was a Revolutionary soldier, and served for the lot on which he settled. He came from Dutchess or Westchester County, and died about ten years ago.

In the fall of the year 1794, soon after his arrival, Mr. Palmer and his son, a youth of some sixteen years of age, went into the woods to chopping, for the purpose of making a clearing. Sometime in the afternoon, they felled a tree, and as it struck the ground, it bounded, swung around and caught the young man under it. The father at once mounted the log, cut it off, rolled it over and liberated his son. Upon examination, one of his lower limbs was found to be badly crushed and mangled. He thereupon carried the youth to his log hut close at hand, and with all possible diligence made haste to his nearest neighbors, some three or four miles distant, desiring them to go and minister to his son's necessities, while he should go to Whitestown for Dr. White. The neighbors sallied forth with such comfortable things as they thought might be acceptable in such a case; but amidst the confusion, the dense forest and the darkness of the night which had just set in, they missed their way; and after wandering about for a long time, gave over pursuit and returned home, leaving the poor sufferer alone to his fate. Early the next morning all hands again rallied, and in due time found the young man suffering the most extreme anguish from his mangled limb, and

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greatly benumbed with cold. They built a fire, made him comfortable with such palliatives as could be procured in the wilderness, and waited in patience the return of the parent. In the mean time he had proceeded rapidly on his journey on foot, and found Dr. White at Clinton. Here he engaged an Oneida Indian to pilot them through the woods by a nearer route than to follow the windings of the old road. Dr. White and Mr. Palmer were at sundry times fearful the Indian would lose the way; and upon every expression of doubt on their part, the Indian would exclaim "*me know*;" and told them he would bring them out at a certain log which lay across the outlet at the foot of Otisco Lake. The Indian took the lead, and within forty-eight hours after the accident had happened, the Indian brought them exactly to the log, exclaiming triumphantly, "*me know*." Here Mr. Palmer arrived on familiar ground, and at once proceeded to the cabin where he had left his son, whom they found greatly prostrated, and writhing under the most intense suffering. No time was lost. The case was thought desperate—the limb was amputated at once, half way from the knee to the thigh. The youth bore the pain with heroic fortitude, recovered and lived many years afterwards, always speaking in the highest terms, in praise of Dr. White.

The first settler in that part of the town taken from Tully was Jonathan Berry, and is still living a resident of the town. He first settled a short distance south of the village of Borodino, in March, 1803. In April the same year, Archibald Farr located himself on the south-west corner of lot number eleven.

To facilitate the progress of Mr. Farr's immigration, Berry sent his teams and men to clear out a road, that Farr might proceed to his place of destination. This was the first road attempted to be made within the limits of the town, and is the same that now leads from Spafford Corners to Borodino. The next year (1804) Isaac Hall settled on the farm now (1848) owned by Asael Roundey, Esq., near Spafford Corners. This year the road was cleared out from Farr's on lot

number eleven to the Corners, and the next year (1805) two men from Scott cut and cleared a road from the town of Scott to Spafford Corners. Their names were Elisha Sabins and John Babcock. They moved their goods on sleds, over logs and through the brush as best they could. The following year, 1806, several families took up their abode in this town and scattered themselves over its whole extent. On the road from Borodino to the town of Scott, lived Peter Knapp, Isaac Hall, John Babcock, Samuel Smith, Elisha Sabins, Otis Legg, Moses Legg, Archibald Farr, Jethro Bailey, Elias Davis, Abel Amadown, Job Lewis, Daniel Tinckham, — Whiting, and John Hullibut. In other parts of the town were Levi Foster, Benjamin Homer, James Williamson, Cornelius Williamson, Benjamin Stanton and John Woodward. James Bacon and Asael Roundey settled at Spafford Corners in 1807, by which time the town became generally settled. In September of 1806, Isaac Hall drove a wagon from Spafford Corners to Scott Corners for a load of boards, being the first wagon that had passed over that road. Elias Davis first made his way to his new home in this town from Skaneateles in a skiff, by rowing up the lake. He located a little south of the center.

The first frame dwelling was erected in 1807 by Samuel Conkling, on lot seventy-six, Marcellus.

The first town meeting was held at the house of Elisha Sabins, 1812, at which John Babcock was chosen Supervisor, and Sylvester Wheaton, Town Clerk; Benjamin Stanton, Asael Roundy, Elijah Knapp, Assessors; Asael Roundy, Adolphus French, Jonathan Berry, Commissioners of high ways. Annual meeting April, 1813, at the same place; Asael Roundy, chosen Supervisor, and Asa Terry Town Clerk.

A Post Office was first established at Spafford Corners in 1814; Asael Roundy, first Post Master. James Knapp, Joseph R. Berry, Thomas B. Anderson and Doctor Collins, have been successors to the office, in the foregoing order. The mail was first carried in a wagon through the town in 1827.

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Contract held by James H. Fargo, the route, from Jordan to Homer. Previously carried on foot and on horseback.

Jared Babcock was the first merchant in 1809, and Lanson Hotchkiss the second, 1810. Dr. Archibald Farr was the first practising physician in town, and also kept the first tavern, on lot number 11, Tully, in 1808. Other physicians have been Jeremiah B. Whiting, Zechariah Derby, John Collins, and some others. Never a lawyer located in this town.

The first school house was built of logs on the north-west corner of lot number seventy-six, Marcellus, in 1803; the first teacher Miss Sally Packard. The first school at Spafford Corners was kept in a log house in 1808, by Miss Hannah Weston, (Mrs. Roundy.) There were no wagon roads at that time from Skaneateles, and she came out from that place and returned, after the close of her school, on horseback.

The first stated preacher was Elder Harman, who organized a Methodist Church and Society at an early day. The Baptist Society and Church was organized in the Tully portion of the town in 1816; this organization was broken up in 1832. A Society and Church was organized in the Marcellus portion of the town in 1800. Methodist and Universalist Union Society house of worship, was erected in 1838, and Freewill Baptist the same year; both were dedicated in 1840. Elder Kimberly, first preacher, Elders Benjamin Andrews, Boughton, Jacob W. Darling, &c., have been ministers. John Babcock was the first Justice of the Peace in this town, and Asahel Roundey, the second.

The first grist mill in town was erected by Dr. Archibald Farr, in 1808, and a saw mill by Josiah Walker, in 1810. Judge Walter Wood built a saw mill in 1811. The principal stream is called Cold Brook, the largest tributary of the Otisco Lake.

There is an excellent quarry of gray limestone in this town, suitable for building. It is the highest elevation in the county where that most excellent building material is found. This town in the main, may be termed hilly. The central portion has an extensive valley of fine fertile land, but the eastern and

western portions are uneven. The soil is principally a strong and productive loam. The timber consists of heavy maple, beech, basswood, butternut, hemlock, and some pine. It is well watered by springs and small brooks, and is well adapted to grazing.

In the north-east part of the town is a weak salt fountain, on the shore of the Otisco Lake, where salt has been made. There are extensive beds of what are termed horn rocks, along the shore of the Skaneateles Lake. There are also several sulphur springs in town, none of which afford any very great quantity of water, although highly impregnated with foreign substances. From the highest hills, the Skaneateles Lake may be seen stretching itself far away in the distance, on the west, to the north, and the Otisco on the east, both of which are beautiful bodies of water, five miles apart, and bound the town on the west and east. Borodino is the principal village, containing a Post Office, two churches, several stores and about eight hundred inhabitants.

Statistics from the census of 1845, respecting the town of Spafford :—

Number of inhabitants, 1,977; subject to military duty, 220; voters, 484; aliens, 8; children attending Common Schools, 498; acres of improved land, 14,560; grist mills, 1; saw mills, 7; carding machines, 1; tanneries, 1; Churches—Baptist, 1; Presbyterian, 1; Methodist, 2; common schools, 10; taverns, 4; stores, 5; farmers, 278; merchants, 7; manufacturers, 6; mechanics, 46; clergymen, 8; physicians, 3.

VIEW OF THE TOWN AS IT APPEARED IN 1765.



VIEW OF OSWEGO AS IT APPEARED IN 1765.



## CHAPTER XVI.

## OSWEGO.

ERECTION OF A TRADING HOUSE AND FORT, BY GOVERNOR BURNET—GEN. SHIRLEY—COL. MERCER—OPERATIONS OF COL. BRADSTREET—OSWEGO FALLS—BONE HILL—OSWEGO TAKEN BY MONTCALM—INCIDENTS—ATTACKED BY THE BRITISH—EARLY SETTLEMENT.

AT first it was not the design of this work to introduce the history of this important place in a distinct and extended manner. But at the suggestion of several gentlemen, who are well qualified to judge in these matters, the author was induced to visit Oswego, and other locations along the Oswego valley, and collect materials for a more full and minute notice of it than was originally intended.\* This important and interesting locality is situated on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, on both sides of the Oswego River, in latitude  $43^{\circ} 28' 03''$  north. It was called by the French, *Chouaguen*.

The French had established themselves in the Iroquois country at an early period, by the erection of fortifications at Niagara and Ierondequot, while the English had no semblance of a fortification west of Schenectady. It soon became apparent that something should be done to retain possession of

\* The author is under great obligation to E. W. Clarke, Esq., for the loan of his valuable manuscript giving much interesting information relative to Oswego. Also to B. B. Burt, Esq., for books and papers upon the same subject, and also to Mr. Matthew McNair, one of the oldest residents of Oswego, for valuable verbal information.

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the country claimed by the English, and make a show of resistance to overawe the French, and inspire the Five Nations with confidence, and to show them that the English were capable and willing to maintain their rights. Col. Romer had explored the country of the Five Nations in 1700 and 1701, and reported that at the mouth of the Onondagas' River, was the most suitable place for the erection of a fort.

Gov. Burnet, in his anxiety to secure the trade of the Indians in 1721, got an act passed by the Colonial Legislature, prohibiting the sale of goods to the French, under severe penalties, with the design of drawing all the Indian trade to New-York. In order fully to carry out his designs, to keep the French within their proper limits, and to inspire the Five Nations with a becoming respect for the power of the English, he commenced the erection of a trading house at Oswego in 1722, on the west side of the river. The benefits of this policy were immediately apparent. In 1723, fifty-seven canoes went from Albany to that place, and returned loaded with furs and skins, among which were seven hundred and thirty-eight packs of beaver and deer skins. The jealousy and indignation of the French was aroused by the doings of Gov. Burnet. They at once set about repairing the fort at Niagara, and gathered materials for the erection of a trading house at that place, thus securing the western entrance to the lake, as they had the eastern, by the erection of Fort Frontenac. In 1725, Baron Longueuil, the Governor of Canada, went in person to Onondaga, to obtain permission to erect the store house at Niagara. He obtained their consent, but the other nations disavowed the act, and sent messengers to Niagara requiring the French immediately to desist. Gov. Burnet remonstrated against these encroachments of the French. He also called a council of the Five Nations conjuring them to give an explicit declaration of their sentiments relative to the French encroachments at Niagara. Their answer is truly expressive,—“We come to you, howling, and this is the reason why we howl; because the Governor of Canada encroaches on our lands, and builds thereon.” Gov-

ernor Burnet improved this season of disaffection towards the French, to secure a grant confirming a grant made in 1701, which had ceded to the English, the lands of the Five Nations, south of Lakes Erie and Ontario. The grant conveyed all their lands in trust from the Oswego to Cayahoga River. Notwithstanding the remonstrances of Governor Burnet, the French completed their works at Niagara with as little delay as possible. Governor Burnet still complained of the want of faith in the French, in building Fort Niagara, and to keep pace with them, obtained an appropriation from the Colonial Assembly, in 1726, of three hundred pounds, for the purpose of building a fort at Oswego, and on the 9th of May, 1727, makes the following report: "I have this spring sent up workmen to build a stone house of strength at a place called Oswego, at the mouth of the Onondagas' River. I have obtained the consent of the Five Nations to build it, and being informed that a party of ninety French were going to Niagara, I suspected they might have orders to interrupt this work. I have therefore sent up a detachment of sixty soldiers, with a captain and two lieutenants, to protect the building from any harm the French might offer." The Governor proposes to keep an officer and twenty men in garrison to protect the works against the French. Three hundred pounds had been provided to build the fort, but it was not near enough, and the Governor who had become warmly enlisted in the matter, furnished the residue on his own responsibility.

On the 24th of August, 1727, Governor Burnet reported the fort at Oswego as finished, and says, "this new house at Oswego will make a stand that will embolden the Five Nations, and one that cannot be taken without heavy cannon, the walls being four feet thick, of good stone, and the French cannot bring heavy cannon against it."

The trading house and fort built at Oswego, by Governor Burnet, was situated on the west side of the river directly on the bank of the lake. The ground was elevated about forty feet above the level of the lake; the bank being of rock and hard-pan, almost perpendicular. The building was of stone,

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about eighty feet square, except that the eastern side was circular. It was provided with port holes and a deep well. The ascent to it from the south, was by a flight of stone steps, the remains of which have been visible till within a few years. The earthen embankment of the fort, with its palisades, was about two hundred feet west of the trading house, and slight traces of it were to be seen till within a recent period. This bluff, with its grassy surface, formed a favorite promenade for the citizens of Oswego, until the hand of innovation and improvement, within the last ten years, has leveled it for useful purposes. When the foundation of the flag staff at the old fort was removed, there was found at the bottom of it a flat piece of red sand stone, upon which was engraved this inscription—"GLIUNA, 1727." It lay exposed for a few days, and was finally stolen by the captain of a lake schooner.

The French Governor was highly exasperated at what he conceived to be an encroachment of the English, ordered the works to be abandoned within fifteen days, and demolished. To this the English Governor gave no heed, whereupon the Governor of Canada sought to have the dispute settled by the two crowns, and in the mean time to have the place abandoned, but to this proposition Governor Burnet would not consent.

The French Governor, the Marquis Beauharnois, upon this, sent a summons for the garrison to relinquish the fort within a fortnight, with all arms, munitions and effects, and retire within their own dominions, or his vengeance would follow.

In 1728, Governor Burnet was succeeded by Mr. John Montgomery, a Scotch gentleman, who early held a treaty with the Six Nations, for a renewal of the ancient covenant chain. He gave them rich presents, and engaged them in the defense of Oswego. The French had made their threats that the fort at Oswego should be destroyed the ensuing spring. This design becoming known, the garrison was re-enforced by a detachment from the independent companies of the province, and the Indians also prepared to render their assistance in the protection of the fort. The French, no way desirous of commencing hostilities or continuing them in time of peace, finally



abandoned their intended invasion, and for a number of years gave the garrison no further trouble. From this time until the year 1754, the fort at Oswego was usually garrisoned by a lieutenant and twenty-five men, besides traders, who usually spent the summer in the vicinity of the fort, collecting furs, and who returned to Albany in autumn, to make sale of them.

During all this time Oswego was considered the most important military post in the colony of New-York, and the only one on the western frontier. Its support was an object of great moment to the government, and annual appropriations were made by the Colonial Assembly for that purpose. In 1732, Governor Cosby represented that the fort at Oswego was in a ruinous condition, and requested that means might be granted to put it in order. The House of Assembly instituted inquiries, and learned that the fort had been formerly victualled by Harmanus Wendle, and that Capt. Jacob Glen, in behalf of Capts. John Schuyler, John Depuyster and John Junian Cast, had undertaken to victual his majesty's troops at Oswego for three years, at the rate of four hundred and fifty-pounds per annum.

In April, 1733, a petition was presented from forty-eight traders at Oswego, complaining of the commandant of the garrison for laying improper restrictions upon their trade. The House went into an investigation of the matter, and requested the Governor to appoint David A. Schuyler, or some other person who understood the Indian trade and language, to reside at Oswego as a commissary.

Nothing of importance seems to have occurred during the remainder of Governor Cosby's administration, which terminated with his life, in March, 1736. His successor, Lieutenant Governor Clarke, was no less impressed with the importance of sustaining this military post, than his predecessor had been.

So late as June 19th, 1743, the trading house at Oswego was not fully completed, and Governor Clarke complains in a letter to the board of trade, of the dilatory character of the director of the work.

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It seems duties were charged on goods passing at Oswego, at this time, for in a letter it is stated that "the Assembly refuses to pay the bateau men out of any other fund but the Oswego duties."\*

The French Governor of Quebec, Beauharnois, complains bitterly in a letter to Governor Clarke, of Capt. Congreve, at Oswego, on account of the detention of French boats, and the Governor complains to Captain Congreve in the following terms: "I am truly sorry to hear so many complaints of your conduct at Oswego. I hope for better things, but am now in fear that if some better care be not taken, that the garrison will all desert or perish for want of provisions, of which I am told there is no manner of economy. It behooves you sir, to be very circumspect, and I earnestly recommend that you keep good discipline, and to take care of the provisions and for the security of the house and garrison."†

In 1744, new difficulties broke out between France and England, upon which, the Colonial government turned their attention to this fortress. Cannon, ammunition and troops were forwarded; an interpreter was sent among the Indians, several of whom were engaged as scouts, to watch the movements of the French. The traders at Oswego entirely abandoned the place, upon the first intimation of the war.

By the treaty of Aix La Chapelle in 1748, peace was again restored between the two nations, and continued until the breaking out of the "*Old French War*," in 1753. It was during this contest of six years which terminated with the conquest of Canada and the capture of Quebec, in 1759, that the most important and interesting events in the history of Oswego as a military post, transpired.

In 1755 Gen. Shirley conducted an expedition designed for the capture of Forts Frontenac and Niagara. He reached Oswego late in August with fifteen hundred men, of whom one hundred and twenty were Indians and militia, and the

\* London Documents, vol. 27, p. 81.

† *Lon. Docs.*, Vol. 25., p. 262.

residue Provincial regulars. General Shirley lost much valuable time in ascertaining the strength of these posts, and at length determined first to attack Fort Niagara. His spies reported that the French were in great force at Fort Frontenac; and from this circumstance concluded, that it was their design to make an attack upon Oswego during his absence to Niagara. In this posture of affairs, a council of war was called, which after weighing all the circumstances, unanimously resolved to defer the attempt upon Niagara until next year, and to employ the troops while they remained at Oswego, in building barracks and erecting two new forts, one on the east side of the river, four hundred and fifty yards distant from the old fort which it was to command, as well as the entrance of the harbor, and to be called Ontario Fort, and the other, to be called Oswego New Fort.\*

These things being agreed upon, General Shirley with the greatest part of the troops under his command, set out on his return to Albany on the 24th of October, leaving Col. Mercer with a garrison of about seven hundred men at Oswego. Though repeated advice had been received that the French had then at least a thousand men at Fort Frontenac; and what was still worse, the new forts were not near completed, but left to be finished by the hard labor of Col. Mercer and his little garrison, with the addition of the melancholy circumstance, that if besieged by the enemy in the winter, it would be impossible for his friends to afford relief.

Early in 1753, we find the garrison at Oswego in command of Lieut. Hitchen Holland, who is presumed to have continued in command till succeeded by Col. Mercer, and the augmentation of the garrison by Col. Bradstreet and Gen. Shirley, in the autumn of 1755.

Fort Ontario was built on the east side of the river, about one hundred yards from the lake, commanding the ground around it. Its circumference was about eight hundred feet, being built of logs from twenty to thirty inches in diameter,

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\* Smollett. Vol. II. p. 178.

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and the outside wall about fourteen feet high. Around it was a ditch fourteen feet broad and ten feet deep. Within it was a square log house to overlook the walls, and contained barracks for three hundred men, and was calculated to mount sixteen pieces of cannon.

The Oswego New Fort was a square of one hundred and seventy feet, with bastions and a rampart of earth and masonry, which besides the parapet, was to be twenty feet thick, twelve feet in height, with a ditch fourteen feet broad and ten feet deep. This was to mount eight pieces of cannon, being made more defensible, as it commanded a good landing place. The barracks were to contain two hundred men. It will be readily seen, that this is the work usually denominated the Old French Fort, on the hill across which Van Buren street has since been laid near its junction with sixth street, traces of which were to be seen until recently.

Although there is no historical mention made of any other fort than Ontario on the east side of the river, yet it is almost certain that some kind of fort or redoubt had been erected on that promontory several years previous. One evidence of this is in the following fact. In the year 1818, the present court house in East Oswego was erected. The stone for that building were obtained from Fort Ontario, principally from the walls of the bomb proof, which stood in the north-west angle. One of these stone had a builder's name (Craunell) upon it, and the date 1745. This stone was placed under the sill at the north-west corner facing the north, where it may now be seen. It can hardly be possible that the date, marks any other event than the erection of some work near the site of Fort Ontario. Besides, on an old map now to be seen in possession of E. W. Clarke, Esq., two forts are laid down on the east side of the river, about four hundred and fifty yards distant from each other.

The naval force of the French was considered respectable for the times, and the English, consisted of the Oswego, Commodore Bradley, with only four four-pounders and one three-pounder, with forty-five seamen and soldiers. The Ontario,

Capt. Laforoy, with four four-pounders, one three pounder, and forty-five seamen and soldiers ; a small schooner, Capt. Farmer, with six swivels and thirteen men ; and a new brigantine and schooner nearly completed.

The garrison were almost continually annoyed by scalping parties of French and Indians, and frequently complained of the want of men to protect the works.

The year 1756 is truly memorable in the history of Oswego. A convoy of provisions and stores for the garrison had been dispatched early in summer from Albany, under command of Col. Bradstreet. The French being apprised of it, detached a party of soldiers and Indians to intercept it as it should pass down the Oswego river, with directions to lay an ambuscade at some convenient point. The party consisted of about 300 boatmen, wholly unused to war, and their vessels consisted of a large number of bateaux suitable for the navigation of the streams through which they were to pass. The French designated for this attack got lost and did not reach the river in time to intercept Col Bradstreet, and thereupon resolved to retire a short distance into the woods and await his return. On the 3d of July, Col. Bradstreet left Oswego on his way back. He divided his boats into three divisions with directions to keep a little distance apart, so as to be better able to support each other in case of an attack. As he was slowly stemming the current, himself in the foremost division, at a point some seven miles above Oswego, at a place known as the Mann farm, he was suddenly saluted by the war whoop of the savages and a heavy discharge of musketry from the west side of the river. Recollecting that there was a small island just above him where the enemy might ford the river and attack his rear, he instantly rowed to it, and effected a landing with only six men, commanding the residue to land on the east side. He had scarcely reached it when he was attacked by a party of the enemy who had forded the river for that purpose ; but these were soon repulsed.\* Another body having passed a mile higher, he ad-

\*Smollett, vol 2, p. 221.

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vanced to them, at the head of two hundred men, and fell upon them with such vigor, that many were killed on the spot and the rest driven into the river with such precipitation that a considerable number of them were drowned. Having received information that a third body of the enemy had passed at a ford still higher, he marched thither without hesitation and pursued them to the other side, where they were entirely routed and dispersed. In this action, which lasted near three hours, about seventy of the bateau men were killed or wounded; but the enemy lost more than double that number, many of whom were killed in the river whose bodies floated downward. In all probability the whole detachment of the French amounting to seven hundred men would have been cut off, had not a heavy rain interposed and disabled Col. Bradstreet from following up his success, for that same night he was joined by Captain Patten with a company of grenadiers, on his march from Oneida to Oswego, and next morning he was re-enforced by the arrival of two hundred men, detached to his assistance from the garrison at Oswego. On the 29th of May the French landed on the south-eastern side of Lake Ontario, about fifty miles from Oswego, were joined by about three hundred Indians and set out the day following with the intention of cutting off the convoy of provisions on the way from Albany to Oswego. But the Indians refusing to join in an expedition to intercept them at Oswego falls, Capt. Vielere consented to go to Fort Ontario, where they surprised a sergeant's guard and took a corporal prisoner. After firing at the fort and town, they retired to the *River La Planche*, and next day to their camp fifteen leagues from Oswego, when all the Indians except fifteen left them. After a respite of eight days, being joined by about one hundred Indians, proceeded with a force of three hundred Canadians, ninety Marines and one hundred Indians, to intercept Col. Bradstreet—with the results before stated.

The following letter, under date of June 28, 1756, from Oswego, appears in the *New York Mercury*:

"On the morning of the 16th inst., about four o'clock, a party of three or four hundred French and Indians made an

attack upon forts Oswego and Ontario, and killed and scalped five of the bateau guard sent from fort Ontario on that side of the river. They took one prisoner, mortally wounded another and slightly wounded a third; were repulsed, but not without considerable loss, as the cannon played upon them for an hour and a half, and they went off about eleven o'clock."

Two whale boats were sent to make discoveries on the French shore the same day, and after rowing about eleven miles, a large French and Indian force was discovered in the woods, on the lake shore east of Oswego, which was fired upon from the fleet, and afterwards retreated.

From the prisoners taken by Col. Bradstreet, he learned Montcalm's design upon Oswego, and that he was already on this side of the lake, prepared to make an attack upon that place, with a large army.

The island upon which the hottest of this battle was fought, is now called Braddock's Island, (properly Bradstreet's,) and at low water the boys frequently pick up bullets among the stones, at the bottom of the river. The woods in the vicinity, long bore the marks of the deadly strife, and it has not been uncommon, until recently, to find bullets embedded in the trees. A single French soldier was left upon a small island, near the western shore, in the rapids called Braddock's (Bradstreet's) Rifts, who lay concealed for some weeks, until his friends had all left the country. He afterwards made it his abode for years, leading a solitary life. It still bears the name of "*The Frenchman's Island*."

In the vicinity of this affair, within the distance of two or three miles, on both sides of the river are found remains of ancient fortifications, the history of which is unknown. They generally consist of embankments with ditches, and many of them were overgrown with large timber.

About eighteen years since, Mr. Jacob Raynor dug up on his farm, at the west end of the Free Bridge, an exquisitely wrought ornament of gold, worth twenty dollars.

About forty years since, a large tree was cut near the white house, on the east side of the river, in which were found

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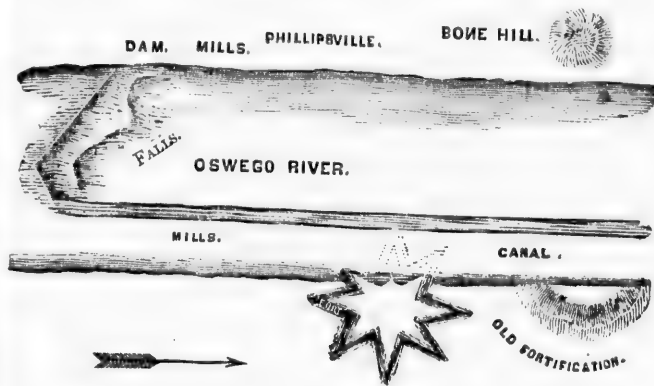


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a large number of musket balls, and an old blaze which had evidently been the mark at which they were fired. There was no external appearance of a wound on the tree, and the blaze was overgrown by one hundred and twelve cortical layers. The party who made this their target, must have done so previous to the expedition of Count Frontenac against the Onondagas, in 1696. Perhaps Dupuys encamped here for a night, in 1656, or may be the original lords of the soil, at a period still earlier, here tested the respective merits of fire-arms, and bows and arrows.

Some eight or ten rods below the Oswego Falls, on the grounds of Mr. Timothy Pratt, on the east bank of the Oswego River, are the ruins of an old fort, which was probably erected by order of Col. Bradstreet or Gen. Amherst, at the time Forts Stanwix and Brewerton were built, in 1758, for in a letter from Albany, dated 20th August, 1758, after describing Col. Bradstreet's force, and his meditated attack upon Fort Frontenac, he says, "The remaining troops at the great carrying place are employed in building a fort there." (*See cut.*)



In 1759, a garrison of one hundred men was kept there. It was certainly a place of no ordinary importance, as all military stores had to pass that way; were unloaded, and again re-shipped, after "*running*" the boats light over the falls.

The necessity for a fort here was no doubt experienced long before one was built. The confusion usually attending these operations made it a point easily assailable, and frequent instances of attack and delay are known to have occurred. Although there are no historical records of battles fought, and victories won upon this ground, yet the relics of arms, bullets and hatchets, often found in the vicinity, plainly show that the din of war and the clash of arms have been no infrequent occurrence or school-boy's play, around the "*Fort at the Falls.*" During the war of 1812, this point was made a depot for munitions of war and naval stores, for the forts at Oswego and Sackett's Harbor, and the fleet upon Lake Ontario. It was also frequently used as a ground for the encampment of troops passing down to Oswego. The lower part or section of this fort nearest the river, has been cut off by the Oswego Canal. (See figure.) But the upper portion, although it has the appearance of having been plowed over, is in a tolerable state of preservation. The bottom of the ditch is about four feet below the top of the embankment. In its construction, the earth was probably thrown out on both sides alike, forming a high breast-work within the fort. The whole was probably surrounded by palisades. It was a regular octangular work, of which both the exterior and interior angles were very acute. Some fifty rods below the fort was formerly a semi-circular enclosure, on the high bank of the river, about ten rods across, and the embankment three feet high, within the recollection of the early settlers. This, without doubt, was a work of aboriginal origin, and has probably been the look-out ground for the red warrior in by-gone years, as his dingy foes crossed this fording place, or shot their light canoes over the rushing cascade. This locality was pointed out and explained to the author by Mr. Peter Skenck. Directly opposite to this semi-circular enclosure, is a place known as "*Bone Hill.*" This is on the west bank of the river, between it and the highway. It was formerly some six rods in diameter at the base, and about forty feet high from the surface. By frequent plowings its height has been materially diminish-

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ed. On this hill there formerly stood two large chesnut trees about twenty feet apart. These were cut down at an early day, by Mr. Van Valkenburgh, one of the earliest settlers in that region. Mr. Skenck assisted in the digging up of one of these stumps, and beneath it were found multitudes of human bones, some of which were perfect, others in an advanced stage of decay, showing that it had long been the resting place of the remains of the dead, and probably of those who had been slain in battle. Pieces and fragments of bones were formerly so plenty as to be seen in vast numbers from the road, covering the whole surface of the hill, and are frequent even at this late day, for we found scattered fragments of them strewn over the surface, in the fall of 1848, though crumbling and fast dissolving into their original elements. Mr. Skenck, who visited the place with the author, remarked, that in an arm bone of one that was disinterred, was found sticking a flint arrow-head, firm and immovable. Arrow-heads of flint are still found in considerable numbers, about Fish Lake, a mile and a half west of Fulton. Six miles south of the Oswego Falls, on lots twenty-four and thirty-two, of the township of Lysander, now in the town of Granby, are two circular enclosures. One of these is not far from the Oswego and Syracuse Rail Road, on the State's hundred, of lot twenty-four. These were partially surveyed by Mr. Skenck several years ago, and were found to contain about two acres each. They were nearly exact circles, a little elongated, and laid out with great regularity. The earth had been thrown inward to form an embankment, leaving a ditch some five feet below the top of the bank. A gateway was apparent on the east side of each. On both of these were found growing, heavy timber, oak, maple, pine, and other forest trees. One of these ancient works has been cleared off, and the occupant has graced the embankment with a row of apple trees. These works, according to the opinions of our most experienced ethnologists and antiquarians, are of a race who occupied here prior to those who were in possession of the soil when the first white people came to inhabit this land. It is the simplest form of

military architecture in use among the most ancient and rude inhabitants of our country.

We return to the interesting events of 1756. In this year, the Marquis Montcalm succeeded Baron Dieskau, in the command of the military force of the French in Canada. He was an experienced and energetic officer, no way inferior to his distinguished but unfortunate predecessor. The first thing which attracted his observing and experienced mind, was the important English post at Oswego. He at once resolved upon its reduction, before the English should have time to consummate their designs upon Niagara.

In the month of June, M. Montcalm with an army of five thousand men, crossed the lake from Fort Frontenac. The party which attacked Col. Bradstreet, on the 3d of July, was a detachment from the army of Montcalm, which was already upon this side of the lake. The Colonial authorities at Albany, upon being informed of the approach of this formidable force towards Oswego, ordered Gen. Webb to re-enforce the garrison with one regiment, but the difficulties attending the collection of necessaries, and the transporting of troops in an uninhabited wilderness, delayed the detachment until the post had fallen, the tidings of which met Gen. Webb at Wood Creek. After obstructing the navigation of that stream, by felling trees into it, to prevent the French from advancing by that route with their boats, should they conclude to follow up the success and make a descent upon the inhabitants at Schenectady and Albany, he retraced his steps to the place of his departure.

M. Montcalm landed his artillery and stores, at the Bay of Nixouri, (probably Henderson,) and his first important step, was to block up the river with two large armed vessels, and post a strong body of Canadians on the road leading from Albany to Oswego, within half a league of Oswego. He erected a battery for the protection of his vessels; and on the 12th of August, at midnight, after his dispositions had been made, he opened his trenches before Fort Ontario.

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The following account of the seige and surrender of Oswego, is from the London Magazine, for 1757 :

"The works at Oswego, consisted at this time of three forts, viz : The old fort on the west side of the river, and two forts on the east side, situated on two eminences, which latter were commenced the year previous, and were in an unfinished state. These works were very weak, and the walls of insufficient strength to resist heavy artillery. The English relied for defense, upon having a superior naval force upon the lake. Unfortunately, the naval armament, at that time fitting out, was incomplete. On the 6th of August, Col. Mercer, commanding officer of the garrison, which consisted of about one thousand six hundred men, having received intelligence of a large encampment of French and Indians about twelve miles distant, dispatched a schooner with an account of it to Capt. Broadley, who was then on a cruise with a large Brigantine and two sloops, at the same time desiring him to sail as far eastward as he could, and to endeavor to prevent the approach of the French on the lake. The next day, a violent gale of wind, drove the brigantine ashore, while attempting to get into harbor. The French seized this opportunity to transport their heavy cannon within a mile and a half of the fort, which they would not have been enabled to do, had it not been for this disaster. On the morning of the eleventh, some canoes were seen to the eastward, and the schooner was sent out to make a discovery of what they were. she was scarce half a mile distant, before she hoisted a jack at mast head, fired a gun to leeward, and stood in again for the harbor, and brought intelligence that they had discovered a very large encampment close around the opposite point, on which the two sloops (the large brigantine being still on shore) were sent out with orders, if possible, to annoy the enemy. They proceeded to within gun shot of the enemy's camp, when they were fired upon from a battery of four twelve pounders. This fire was briskly returned from both vessels, but to no purpose, as their shot fell short of the shore, and the enemy's cannon being large and well managed, hulled the vessels at

almost every shot. After firing several broadsides, the vessels returned.

The same day the French invested the place with about thirty-two pieces of cannon, from twelve to eighteen pounders, besides several brass mortars and hoyets, (among which artillery was included, that taken from General Braddock) and about five thousand men. About noon they began the attack of Fort Ontario with small arms, which was briskly returned with small arms and eight cannon from the fort, and shell from the opposite side of the river. The garrison on the west side of the river was this day employed in repairing the battery on the south side of the old fort. That night the enemy were engaged in approaching Fort Ontario and bringing up their cannon against it. On the 12th, the enemy renewed their fire of small arms on Fort Ontario, which was briskly returned. The garrison on the west side were employed as on the day previous.

The French on the east side continued their approaches to Fort Ontario, notwithstanding the continued fire upon the enemy and the death of their chief engineer; by ten o'clock next morning they opened a battery of cannon within sixty yards of the fort.

At twelve o'clock, Col. Mercer sent the garrison word to destroy their cannon, ammunition and provisions, and to evacuate the fort. About three P. M., the garrison consisting of about three hundred and seventy men, effected their retreat to the west side of the river without the loss of a man, and were employed on the night of the 12th in completing the works at the fort on the west hill. About four miles and a half up the river was Fort George, the defense of which had been committed to Col. Schuyler on the abandonment of the first fort by Col. Mercer. About three hundred and seventy of his men had joined Col. Schuyler, with the intention of having an intercourse between his fort and that to which their own commander retreated; but a body of two thousand five hundred Canadians and Indians, crossed the river in the night of the 13th and 14th, and cut off that communica-

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tion On this night as well as on the night before, parties of the enemy's regulars made several attempts to surprise the advanced guards and sentries on the west side of the river. On the night of the 13th the enemy were employed on the east side in bringing up their cannon and raising a battery against the old fort. A constant fire was kept upon them from the west side. The cannon which most annoyed the enemy, were pieces which were reversed on the platform of an earthen work which surrounded the old fort, and which was entirely enfiladed by the enemy's battery on the opposite shore. In this situation, without the least cover, the train assisted by a detachment of fifty of Shirley's regiment behaved remarkably well. At daybreak the 14th, the English renewed the fire of their cannon on that part of the shore where they had the evening previous observed the enemy erecting a battery. This was returned from a battery of ten twelve pounders. About nine A. M., twenty-five hundred of the enemy crossed the river in three columns. Col. Mercer who had been very careful to observe the movements of the French, ordered Col. Schuyler with five hundred men to dispute the passage of the river, but had scarcely delivered these orders, when going into the fort to give some others equally necessary, he was killed by a cannon shot. Upon this, Col. Scuyler was ordered back.

About ten o'clock the enemy had in readiness a battery of mortars. All the places of defense were either enfiladed or ruined by the constant fire of the enemy's cannon. Twenty-five hundred French and Indians were in rear of the works ready to storm, and two thousand regulars were ready to land in front under cover of their cannon. At this juncture, Col. Littlehales upon whom the command now devolved, called a council of war, who were with the engineers, unanimously of opinion, that the works were no longer tenable, and that it was by no means prudent to risk a storm with such unequal numbers. The "*Chamade*" was accordingly ordered to be beat. The soldiers throughout the siege showed great bravery, and it was with difficulty that they could now be re-



strained from continuing their resistance. On beating the *chamade* the firing ceased on both sides, and two officers were sent to the French general to know upon what terms he would accept a surrender; upon which Montcalm replied, that the English were an enemy he respected, and that none but a brave nation would have thought of defending so weak a place so long against such a strong train of artillery and superior numbers, that they might expect whatever terms were consistent with the service of His Most Christian Majesty. He accordingly sent the following proposals, viz.:

"The Marquis of Montcalm, Army and Field-Marshal, Commander-in-chief of His Most Christian Majesty's Troops is ready to receive a capitulation upon the most honorable conditions, surrendering to him all the forts. They shall be shown all the regard the politest nations can show. I send an aid-de-camp on my part, viz.: Mons. De Bougainville, Captain of dragoons. They need only send the capitulation to be signed. I require an answer by noon. I have kept Mr. Drake for an hostage."

#### MONTCALM.

August 14, 1756.

The articles of capitulation were as follows:—

"Art. 1st. The garrison shall surrender prisoners of war, and shall be conducted hence to Montreal, where they shall be treated with humanity; and every one in a manner suitable to his rank, according to the customs of war.

Art. 2d. The officers and soldiers shall have their baggage and clothes belonging to them as individuals; and shall be allowed to carry away their effects with them.

Art. 3d. They shall remain prisoners of war till exchanged, on their giving up faithfully the fortifications, artillery, ammunition, magazines, barks and boats with their appurtenances."

The English complained that the articles of capitulation were not punctually observed. The British officers and soldiers were insulted by the savages, who robbed them of their clothes and baggage, massacred several men as they stood defenseless on parade, assassinated Lieutenant De la Court, as he lay wound-

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ed in his tent under the protection of a French officer, and barbarously scalped all the sick people in the hospital. Finally, Montcalm in direct violation of the articles, as well as in contempt of humanity, delivered up above twenty men of the garrison to the Indians, in lieu of the same number they had lost during the siege, who were undoubtedly put to death by the most excruciating tortures.\* The prisoners taken at Oswego, after having been thus barbarously treated, were conveyed in bateaux to Montreal, where they had no reason to complain of their reception, and before the end of the year were exchanged. The victors immediately demolished the forts, in which they found one hundred and twenty-one pieces of artillery, fourteen mortars, with a great quantity of small arms, ammunition, warlike stores and provisions, twenty-three thousand weight of powder, eight thousand weight of iron and lead in balls and bullets, one hundred and fifty bombs, besides two sloops and two hundred bateaux, a great quantity of cordage and naval stores, which likewise fell into their hands. Such an important magazine, deposited in a place altogether indefensible, and without the reach of immediate succour, was a flagrant proof of egregious folly, temerity and misconduct. After the destruction of the forts, the French quietly retired without further demonstrations of conquest. Having no use for the sloops of war, the Marquis Montcalm ordered them to be set on fire, and they were sent adrift upon the lake. Having burned to the water's edge, these vessels floated ashore about thirty miles below Oswego. The wreck of one of them lay embedded in the sand a little distance from the shore near the mouth of Deer Creek, and was visible for half a century. Capt. Archibald Fairfield, formerly a citizen of Oswego, about the year 1807 or 1808 succeeded in getting out a small cannon from the wreck. In the spring of 1809, Col. T. S. Morgan in passing from Oswego to Sackett's Harbor in a skiff, (at that time no uncommon way of communication) had his attention attracted by some object beneath the surface of the water,

\* Smollett, vol. 2, p. 224.

and upon approaching the spot discovered this wreck. The charred timber-heads and stern-post reaching nearly to the top of the water. The water was so smooth that he could mark her dimensions and see her rudder irons. She is doubtless in the same position yet, and probably covered with sand.

The capture of this important post was deemed of great consequence by the French, though they could not occupy it as a fortress themselves. The place of rendezvous of their enemies, from which their own positions could be most easily assailed was no more, and nothing was left to intercept their free communication with their western posts. They were now sole masters of all the lakes, and the Six Nations, the only Indians who remained inviolably attached to the English interest were left unprotected. The fortifications at the Mohawk carrying place had been destroyed by the English and the navigation of Wood Creek closed by fallen trees, and before the close of the year 1757, the French laid waste several settlements in the Mohawk valley.

In the month of August, 1758, Col. Bradstreet arrived at Oswego with 3,340 men, on his route against Fort Frontenac, which place he carried with a trifling loss. After demolishing the fort, securing what he could of the immense military stores there deposited, and the shipping of the French, he returned in triumph to Oswego. This brilliant exploit of Col. Bradstreet, was productive of valuable consequences to the English. It made ample amends for the destruction of Oswego by the French two years before. Col. Bradstreet set about repairing the works at Oswego, and during this year, finished the fort at the great carrying place.

From this time to its abandonment in 1798, Oswego was occupied by the British, and became one of her most important posts.

Fort Ontario was rebuilt on a large scale and in a more substantial manner. The other forts were not repaired, but were suffered to go to decay. Major Duncan was left in command by Gen. Amherst. His regiment, the fifty-fifth Highlanders, composed the garrison for several years. This place

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was the key of communication between New-York and the British posts in Canada, and the western lakes. A constant intercourse was kept up with New-York by way of the falls, Fort Brewerton, Fort Bull, Fort Stanwix, and the valley of the Mohawk.

It was during the winter of 1760-61 and the following summer, that Mrs. Grant, then a child, resided here with her father, an officer in the garrison. In her *Memoirs of an American Lady*, are narrated some circumstances of interest, which served then to beguile the monotony of life in an isolated garrison.

In the spring of 1761, Major Duncan having a prospect of being stationed at Oswego for a number of years, employed his men in clearing out the stumps from the land which surrounded Fort Ontario, from which the timber had been cut to build the fortifications and for firewood for the garrison. He laid out the same into large and tasteful gardens, from which the garrison for many years raised an ample supply of vegetables. During the occupancy of the fort by the British, the cultivated grounds were extended above Bridge street on the south, and easterly to the alder swamp, lying in the vicinity of Sixth street. Some fields were also cultivated on the west side of the river. The labor was all performed by hand, as there was not a horse or ox in Oswego, and but one cow, and that was owned by the sutler.

The peace with France by the treaty of Fontainebleau, although it secured the French North American possessions to the English, by no means restored quiet among the powerful Indian nations who had been a long time faithful to the French. The consequence was, that an Indian war broke out, which rendered Oswego a military post of vast importance. Col. Duncan with six companies occupied the place till 1765.

Mr. Henry Van Schaack, an enterprising merchant who resided at Albany from 1756 to 1769, had a trading establishment during most of that period at Oswego, and another at Niagara. After the capture of that post by Gen. Sir William

Johnson, in 1759, he was extensively engaged in the fur trade, which attracted the attention of a large proportion of the most active business men of that day. He made frequent journeys to Oswego, Niagara and Detroit, where he had another trading house previous to 1764, which was suspended during Pontiac's war. Mr. Van Schaack was often engaged in the transportation of military stores and merchandise around the carrying places at Oswego Falls, Fort Stanwix and Little Falls.

So far as our limited knowledge extends, the history of Oswego, during the ten years previous to the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, is unknown; and during all the time of that eventful struggle, little of its coincidences and events are recorded. It was however, garrisoned by a strong British force, and was a place of general rendezvous for the enemies of freedom and their allies, the warriors of the Six Nations, through the whole period of the war. Here were concocted many of the schemes of conquest and slaughter which desolated the settlements of the Mohawk, Schoharie and Cherry Valley. Here St. Leger concentrated his forces preparatory to his contemplated junction with Gen. Burgoyne. Hither he retreated after his disastrous siege of Fort Schuyler; and here was the principal head quarters of the Butlers, Johnsons and Brant, who with the Tories on the frontier and their savage allies, sallied forth from this rallying point, scattering death and desolation wherever their inclination led.

Oswego was not a battle ground of the Revolution. The plan of a campaign for the year 1779, against Oswego, Niagara and Detroit, and all the British posts on the lakes, was proposed in Congress, and seriously discussed. But the commander-in-chief being opposed to it, the design was relinquished, and the enemy were permitted to retain a position which afforded them every facility for controlling the Iroquois and stimulating them to acts of hostility upon the defenseless borderers.

The capture of Cornwallis in October, 1781, decided the fate of the colonies. Little of importance was done either by

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the English or Americans. A disposition for peace was manifested in every quarter, still it was not certain that the struggle was over. The commander-in-chief used every exertion to keep the army in a condition for active service, and the country in an attitude of defense, in case the prospects of peace should vanish and the alarms of war be renewed.

About the close of the war, General Washington conceived the project of taking the fortress of Oswego by surprise. He confided the execution of the plan to Col. Willett, who with the utmost secrecy as to his destination, assembled his forces consisting of about four hundred and seventy men at Fort Herkimer on the 8th of February, 1783. His second in command was Major Van Bunsconten. He commenced his journey immediately in sleighs, and proceeded along the northern shore of Oneida Lake to Fort Brewerton, where the sleighs were left in charge of a guard, and proceeded on foot. They first struck the Oswego River opposite to Ox Creek, three miles above the falls. They then marched down to the lower landing, and arrived there about two o'clock P. M., (below Fulton, near Waterhouse's now Dr. Lee's farm) where they made seventeen scaling ladders. At this place the party again took to the ice as far as Bradstreet's rift. At this point they took to the woods to avoid discovery. By ten o'clock in the evening they were within four miles of the fort. After traveling about the woods two hours longer and not coming in sight of the place of destination, an investigation of the cause was undertaken, when to the great surprise and mortification of the commander and the whole corps, it was ascertained that by diverging from the river, their guide, a young Oneida Indian, had lost his way. Their situation was indeed awkward and perplexing.

They had been at one time nearly within speaking distance of the works, and the shout of victory was almost raised in anticipation, when suddenly they discovered that they were lost in a dense forest, amid mountains of snow. The march had been one of great severity, and as their orders had been peremptory, if the fort was not surprised, no other attempt

should be made to take it. They reluctantly concluded to retrace their steps upon the morrow. They kept in motion till day break, although suffering intensely from the cold; and as the beams of day advanced, the fort was revealed to their wondering eyes. They found themselves on the hill, since known as Oak Hill, in the south-east part of Oswego Village, in full view of the object of their toil, and within three-fourths of a mile of the frowning battlements of the fort. Early in the morning, some wood-choppers came near them from the garrison, two of whom were taken prisoners, but a third escaped and fled to the fort. From their position they could see that considerable excitement was aroused and that the soldiers were engaged in shoveling the snow from the cannon on the ramps. The expedition, however, was at an end, and Col. Willett, with his party, who a few hours before were anticipating an easy victory, were now forced to retire. They threw down their ladders in the hollow, south-east of Oak Hill, where the remains of them were found by the early settlers of the place.

The party suffered immensely from the effects of cold. One colored man was frozen to death; another colored man, with his fiddle and his song, did much to keep up the spirits of the men, and to induce them to active exercise, by which they were saved from the fate of their comrade. Several of the party were badly frozen, their feet having been thoroughly wet while passing on the ice along the river, which was partially covered with water. Henry Blakeman, one of the party, and Joseph H. Perrigo, another, both of whom afterwards settled on the west side of the river, above the falls, were both so badly frozen that they never recovered, and both lived to a good old age, and died at their late residence, three-fourths of a mile south of Phillippsville, on the river's bank. Capt. Edward Connor, formerly of Oswego, commanded a company in the expedition. On the return of Col. Willett to Albany, he was met by the joyful news of peace.

The English continued to hold possession of Oswego and other northern and western posts, from the close of the war,

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until 1796, when by Mr. Jay's treaty, they were to be surrendered to the government of the United States. In point of fact, they held these posts about two years longer, and did not finally surrender them till the year 1798. The reason of their being held over, was this: Soon after the Revolution, the State of Virginia passed a law in effect repudiating all debts due from her citizens to British subjects, or rather confiscating all such debts to the Treasury of the State, into which the same were directed to be paid. The British government thereupon refused to surrender the posts. The Supreme Court, upon the hearing of a case arising upon some of those debts, declared the law of Virginia unconstitutional. The money being then paid over to the creditors, the counter-vailing measure was yielded and the posts surrendered. The fort on Carlton Island, however, not having been demanded by a United States officer, was occupied by a sergeant's guard until the war of 1812, when a party from Sackett's Harbor went upon the Island, and made them prisoners of war.

Upon the surrender of Oswego, the Fort was occupied for two or three years by a lieutenant's command, and subsequently until about the year, 1803, by a sergeant's guard. After which the post was abandoned by the United States government, till the war of 1812.

In 1797, an act was passed directing the Surveyor General to lay out one hundred acres on the west side of Oswego River, into proper streets and house lots, so as to form in the most convenient place, a public square or market place. The principal streets to be one hundred feet wide, and the cross streets sixty feet wide. The house lots to be laid out fifty-six feet front and rear, and two hundred feet deep, and lots for public buildings to be reserved on the square. A map of the same was to be deposited in the Surveyor General's office for inspection. These lots by law were ordered to be sold. The Governor was authorized to reserve any lots he might think proper for public purposes. By an act of the Legislature the lands included in this survey were to be "called forever thereafter by the name of Oswego." West Oswego was laid out

and surveyed by Benjamin Wright, Esq., in 1797, and East Oswego by John Randall, in 1814. The principal sales were made by the State in 1827. Mr. Matthew McNair, now the oldest resident at Oswego, located here in 1802, at which time there were some six or seven families living here and in the vicinity. Among these was a Mr. Asa Rice, who lived three miles west of the river. He was a Revolutionary soldier and was at that time engaged in the Indian trade. His was the only family within fourteen miles of Oswego. In 1802, Mr. McNair found here two frame houses and a ware house, which had been erected a short time previous, by Benajah Byington, now living at Syracuse. These were all on the west side, none on the east side. Archibald Fairfield was a forwarding merchant, and stored salt and goods, and kept a small boatman's tavern, as did also Peter Sharpe. It was customary with several of the earliest settlers at Oswego, to spend their winters at Salina, and employ themselves in manufacturing salt. There was no road cut through from Oswego to Salina till 1804; the journey was usually made on foot through the woods, guided by blazed trees, and in the depth of winter upon snow shoes.

In 1802, there were only two or three old, miserable vessels on Lake Ontario, belonging to the Americans. The British had many more, and of far superior quality. The rise and progress of commerce and steam navigation on Lake Ontario since this period, is probably without a parallel in modern times.

The principal forwarding business was done by Archibald Fairfield, who owned two small vessels on the lake, and Messrs. Sharpe & Vaughn, who owned a small vessel of about fifty tons, called the Jane. Onondaga salt, formed then, as now, an important item in the commercial business of Oswego.

Mr. McNair engaged in the forwarding business, in 1803, bought the schooner Jane, and changed her name to Peggy. A portion of the goods and merchandize arriving at Oswego, was shipped by British vessels, owned at Kingston and by the North-Western Fur Company, a branch of the Hudson

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Bay Company, who then owned several fine vessels, and the greatest number on the lake. Kingston, Toronto, Niagara and Queenston, were flourishing villages, while Oswego had but six or seven families, Genesee two or three log cabins and Lewiston about as many more. All the trade, goods and merchandize down the Oswego River, had to be unloaded at the upper landing at Oswego Falls, and carted a mile, while the boats were either drawn around the falls or returned. Sometimes however, a larger class of boats received the merchandize and carried it on to Oswego; these last were not calculated for the navigation above the falls. In 1804, Mr. Wilson, a government contractor, built a fine schooner of ninety tons called the *Fair American*; in the fall and winter of the same year, Mr. McNair built another of fifty tons, called the *Linda*, and very soon after, with other gentlemen, purchased a number of Canadian vessels. At this period, no custom house had been established. All commercial intercourse was free, no licences were required or ships papers to be verified by oath. The keen scented custom house officer had not yet smelt out the valuable and growing commerce of the great lakes.

In 1808, Messrs. Eckford and Bergh, built a government vessel, the *Brig Oneida*, mounting sixteen twenty-four pound carronades, which was launched in the spring of 1809. Lieut. Woolsey commanded at the station and superintended the building; J. Fennimore Cooper and Thomas Gamble were stationed here at the time, and were midshipmen under him.

In 1809, Messrs McNair & Co., built a fine schooner, and in 1810, another. The same year, the House of Bronson & Co., built one, and Porter Barton & Co., another. These vessels ranged from eighty to one hundred tons burthen. Several other vessels were built between this time and the breaking out of the war of 1812.

Upon the declaration of war, in 1812, the United States judged it not only prudent, but wise, to increase the naval force upon the lakes. The only vessel on Lake Ontario at

this period was the brig *Oneida*, commander Lieut. Woolsey, and not a solitary one on Lake Erie.

At the commencement of the struggle, the American arms had been unsuccessful on the western frontier; but upon the water, every where victorious. In October, 1812, Commodore Chauncey, with a body of seamen, arrived at Sackett's Harbor, for the purpose of carrying out the designs of the government, relative to the establishment of a naval armament upon the lakes. He instantly purchased every trading vessel, capable of being fitted up for the service and ordered Lieut. Elliott to organize a naval force upon Lake Erie. His preparations proceeded with great rapidity, and by the 10th of November, considered himself capable of contending with the whole British squadron, which then consisted of the *Royal George*, of twenty-six guns, *Earl Moira*, eighteen guns, *Prince Regent*, eighteen guns, *Duke of Gloucester*, fourteen guns, *Tarento*, fourteen guns, *Governor Simcoe*, twelve guns. The force of Commodore Chauncey erected in this short space of time, was composed of the *Oneida*, sixteen guns, in which himself sailed. *Governor Tompkins*, Lieut. Brown, six guns; *Growler*, Lieut. Mix, five guns; *Conquest*, Lieut. Elliott, two guns. *Port Arundle*, two guns, and the *Julia Trant*, carrying one thirty-two pounder, making in all, thirty-two guns. Being on the whole, a force much inferior to that of the enemy.

In a cruise soon after, Commodore Chauncey fell in with the *Royal George*, at the Bay of Quinté. After a short resistance she ran under the protection of the batteries on shore, from whence she could not be drawn out. During this cruise a British schooner was captured, which had on board twelve thousand dollars in specie, and the baggage of General Brock, and Captain Brock, a brother of the General, was made a prisoner. The prize was safely carried into Sackett's Harbor. The new ship of war *Madison* was launched at the Harbor, on the 26th of November. The winter soon after closed in and put an end to all further naval incidents for the season.

In 1813, was built at Oswego a large floating battery designed for the lake service, and was dignified with the name,

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"Cooper's Ark." Soon after its completion, it started for Sackett's Harbor, and on its way, during an unexpected and violent storm, went to pieces, and all was lost.

During the winter powerful exertions were made by both the English and Americans to secure the supremacy on the lake. And in the spring a formidable naval armament was arrayed on either side, and an interesting contest ensued between two skilful naval officers for the superiority. The General Pike, of twenty-two guns, and some smaller vessels had been launched, and Commodore Chauncey was now fully equal to his antagonist, Sir James Yoe, in point of strength. The latter was a careful and vigilant officer, and on all occasions avoided coming to a general action. On the contrary, to bring him to action was the utmost wish of Commodore Chauncey, and a series of skilful movements grew out of it, unparalleled in the history of naval tactics, the details of which are too extended for our purpose.

For several years previous to the war, the fortifications at Oswego had been suffered to go to ruin. A law was passed by Congress, on the 2d of April, 1812, styled the embargo law, which was to continue for ninety days. And soon after another act was passed to prohibit the exportation of specie, goods, wares and merchandize, during the continuance of the embargo. To enforce the embargo, Captain Asa Wells, with one company of militia, was ordered to Oswego, and during the greater part of that year occupied what remained of Fort Ontario.

The following July, Col. George Fleming, of Cayuga, took the command, having under him nine companies of militia, and made some movements towards repairing the works, which amounted to nothing. At this time Charles B. Bristol, of Manlius, was a large army contractor, and furnished the troops at Oswego and other posts, with provisions. Mr. McNair, of Oswego, was his commissary. Major Charles Moseley, Captains C. B. Bristol and Leonard Kellogg, of the riflemen, and Captain Mulholland, of the artillery, with Lieutenants Melanethon Smith, William Gardner, Seth Grosvenor and Heze-

kiah Ketchum, of the riflemen, and Lieutenants John Delamater and Robert Cummings, of the artillery, all of Manlius and Pompey, were ordered to Oswego, and there spent the greater part of the season till the close of the campaign. Several companies were present from other parts of the county, viz: Capt. John Sprague, of Pompey; Capts. Forbes and Mead, from Onondaga; Capt. Turner, of Marcellus, who died during the summer, and Capts. Davidson and Dodge, from Madison County. These were mostly volunteers of independent companies, some of whom volunteered for a year, and were called to Queenston, and participated in the battle there, on the 11th of October. In the month of November, Col. Fleming left for home, and the command devolved upon Col. Cleveland, of Madison County, who had just arrived with a re-enforcement of militia. The terms of service of the militia who had spent the summer, expired on the 1st of January, 1813, upon which they returned home, and during the next summer the post was feebly garrisoned by new levies, who depended mainly upon the naval force upon the lake for the safety of the place.

Early in the spring of 1814, in anticipation of an attack upon Oswego, Col. Mitchell was dispatched by General Brown from Sackett's Harbor, with four companies of heavy and one of light artillery, serving as infantry, with orders to occupy and defend the old fort at the mouth of the river, so long as would be consistent with the more important duty of covering the naval stores at the falls. For the advancement of the project of creating a superior naval force upon Lake Ontario, a large amount of naval and military stores had been concentrated at Oswego falls, waiting a fair opportunity to be conveyed to Sackett's Harbor, the principal place of shipbuilding. In obedience to these orders, Col. Mitchell began his march and arrived at Oswego on the 30th of April. Finding the fort in no condition for defense, with its stockade much broken down and decayed, and only five rusty iron guns, two of which had lost their trunions, and all without sufficient carriages. The Colonel had barely time to supply some of these defects,

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when on the morning of the 5th of May, the British fleet consisting of four ships, three brigs and a number of gun boats appeared off the harbor. At one o'clock, P. M., the larger vessels took a position for battering the fort, and soon after opened upon it a heavy fire. At this time there were but three or four small guns at Fort Ontario, and a one gun battery, on the west side of the river, all of which were in a most miserable condition. The fire was returned with much spirit from the fort and a battery on the beach. The firing on the part of the British was evidently made to ascertain the strength of the American garrison. After making considerable display and doing some trivial damage without loss of life, the British fleet hauled off. Early the next morning they again appeared before the fort in nearly the same order as before, only a little nearer the land, and opened a brisk cannonade, which lasted near two hours. The little means of defense at the disposal of the Americans was put in active requisition, but the artillery being in such miserable condition was soon disabled by use, except one twelve pounder. The firing from the British was mainly directed to the woods surrounding the fort and village, with the evident design of deterring the inhabitants of the adjacent country from coming in to oppose the landing. At that time, all East Oswego was a forest except around the fort. Some idea may be formed of the cannonading, from the fact that one individual gathered and sold to the United States, a few weeks afterwards, about five tons of 18, 24 and 32 pound shot. About half past twelve o'clock, the enemy commenced a heavy fire of grape shot, under the cover of which, a portion of the British force with General Drummond at their head, effected a landing on the beach below the fort. Another party consisting of sailors and marines under Capt. Mulcaster, landed under the high bank in front of the gate of fort Ontario. A third party landed on a high point north-east of the fort. This latter party were unfortunate, inasmuch as several were killed by the grape from the fleet, which fell short of the mark. Mulcaster's party rushed up the steep bank under the muzzle of the redoubtable twelve pounder, the only



gun in condition for use, which continued to pour forth its warnings to the last. As the British sailors reached the top of the bank on which it was mounted, two American sailors were ramming down another charge. The two or three other volunteers who had been managing the gun fled within the gate as the red coats sprang upon the bank in front. One of the men at the muzzle also effected his escape, but the other, an old tar, insisted on having another shot. He was surrounded by the enemy, who had possession of the gun, yet he seized the linstock and struggled hard to fire the piece. The British sailors not desirous of killing so gallant a man, seized and dragged him away from the battery by main strength, rejoicing that they were in possession of so brave a prisoner. The old fellow however escaped the following night by stratagem. As Capt. Mulcaster's party entered the gate of the fort, a few men who had been engaged on the parapets, fled over the walls on the opposite side.

The British now in full possession, instantly wheeled to the north-west bastion, where stood the flag-staff to which Col. Mitchell had nailed the stars and stripes. Two men successively attempted to climb the staff for the purpose of cutting off the flag. The fugitives from the opposite wall shot them off. Capt. Mulcaster himself, then sprang up the staff and ere his hand touched the fatal prize, fell pierced by three balls. The fourth man was more successful, and bore it to the ground.

Capt. Mulcaster, although he lived several years, never recovered from the effects of his terrible wounds. Col. Mitchell, finding further opposition at the fort useless, and that any further attempt to defend it would jeopard the naval stores at the falls, determined in the spirit of his orders to retire upon that point and avail himself of the defiles it presented. Nor was this determination executed with less coolness and courage than it was formed; every foot of ground being well contested with the head of the British column for half an hour, after which no further annoyance was given to the retreat. Col. Mitchell on his way to the falls, destroyed the

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bridges and filled the roads with timber. The British were sadly disappointed in finding that the principal stores had been removed to the falls, and that their only booty comprised a few barrels of pork, whiskey and salt, which poorly compensated them for the loss of two hundred and thirty men killed and wounded. The American loss was reported at sixty men killed and wounded.

After the battle was over, several of the citizens of Oswego were taken prisoners and held as hostages, for fear the Americans would wantonly kill the straggling soldiers of the British. Among these were Mr. Bronson, Mr. Beach, P. D. Huginin and Matthew McNair; and on the whole the British were not remarkably civil, for while these gentlemen were detained as hostages at the fort without comfortable refreshments, the British officers feasted themselves upon the fowls obtained from McNair's roost.

A vast amount of provisions and salt were thrown into the river by order of Col. Mitchell, and one vessel on board of which were naval stores, was sunk. After making all the destruction of property in their power, before daylight on the following morning the British unceremoniously decamped.

This attack upon Oswego created a great alarm throughout the country at the time, and the militia flocked there in great force, but arrived too late to render assistance.

The alarms of war had now ceased upon our frontier, and quiet again reigned in the land. But it took several years for the villages along the lines to regain their wonted prosperity.

A small grist mill and saw mill was built by Forman & Brackett, at the falls, in 1809. These were the first mills erected in later times, on the Oswego River, although it has been often stated (and was probably true) that small mills had been put in operation by the English during their occupancy of Oswego, about the year 1750.

Mr. James Lyon was the only forwarding merchant at the upper landing, till after the war, and Falley & Crocker at the lower landing. Through these two houses, was transacted all the commerce which passed Oswego, by way of the river.

The salmon fishery at the falls, formed an important business. Hundreds of barrels of these delicious fish, were annually taken, and found their way to a foreign market. An experienced fisherman would sometimes take them as fast as he could ply his spear. Since the erection of the State dam, they have not visited the waters of the Oswego. With the construction of the Oswego Canal, died the forwarding and carrying business at the falls; but the village of Fulton has since grown up, and contains several dry good stores, five houses for public worship, three extensive grist mills, several saw mills, and an almost unlimited water power. A wealthy company has lately secured the valuable privileges on the west side of the river, and contemplate soon to improve them, and considering what has been done at this place, within the last five years, it would be nothing unwarrantable, to predict, that at no very distant day, it will be connected with Oswego, and altogether become one of the greatest manufacturing places in the world.

The county of Oswego was organized in 1816, taken from the counties of Onondaga and Oneida. The towns of Oswego, Hannibal and Granby on the west side of the river, were a part of the Military Tract in Onondaga County, including the original township of Hannibal and thirty-three lots from the north part of Lysander. The towns east of the river were from Oneida County, constituting a portion of "Scriba's Patent." These lands were originally granted to Nicholas Roosevelt, of New-York, who not complying with the terms of sale, they were sold to George Scriba, a native of Germany, and at that time a merchant of New-York. A part of the lands included in Scriba's Patent were jointly purchased by Gen. Alexander Hamilton, John Lawrence and John B. Church. Several distinct grants were made along the bank of the river from the falls, of from two hundred to fourteen hundred acres each. The state also reserved a tract half a mile wide and a mile long, securing the water power at the Oswego Falls, which was afterwards sold out.

Further up the river is the village of Phoenix, in the town of Schroëppel, about a mile or mile and a half below Three-

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River-Point, and about fourteen miles north of Syracuse. This is a flourishing village, with about nine hundred inhabitants, and forms a sort of connecting link between Syracuse, Fulton and Oswego.

In the Oswego River opposite to the village, is an island called Baldwin's Island, and is owned by Harvey Baldwin, Esq., of Syracuse. It contains, or rather the two contain (being separated by a narrow channel) about ten acres of land. There is a tradition extant, that at the time the French Colony was broken up at Onondaga, in 1656-7, the colonists pursuing their course down the river, and the Indians being in full pursuit, the fugitives took refuge on this island, and after relieving their boats of a small brass cannon, emptied the contents of their military chest, (as the tradition goes) containing a quantity of gold, which was buried in the sand, and from thence they immediately fled down the river to Oswego, and thence across the lake to Canada. Repeated attempts have been made to recover the cannon and also to secure the gold, but hitherto without effect.

Excavations are continued even to this day to secure these hidden treasures.

The employment of steam for purposes of navigation commenced on Lake Ontario, in 1816. In that year, the steamboat Ontario, Capt. J. Mallaby, of four hundred tons, was built at Sackett's Harbor, and commenced running in the spring of 1817, being the first built upon the lakes. Gen. Jacob Brown, Com. M. T. Woolsey, Hooker & Crane, Charles Smith, Erie Lusher and Elisha Camp, proprietors. She was the first vessel built west of the Hudson propelled by steam, and the first sea vessel of the kind built in the country. At the time, her construction was considered an experiment and an enterprise of the first magnitude. She was received on her first trip to Oswego by the people, with the most extravagant rejoicings, which continued during the whole night and till the boat left for Niagara the following day. She engrossed the attention of the whole people, and excited their wonder and admiration. The steamer Frontenac, of seven

hundred tons, was built by some Canadian gentlemen, in 1817. Her machinery was imported from England.

In 1818, the *Sophia*, of seventy-five tons, was built at Sacketts Harbor, and ran between that place and Kingston, commanded by S. Thurston. In 1823, the *Martha Ogden*, Capt. D. Ried, one hundred and fifty tons, was built at Sacketts Harbor, under the directions of Albert Crane, Esq., of Oswego, which formed the line of American Steamers, till 1830, when the *Brownville*, of one hundred and fifty tons, Capt. N. Johnson, was set afloat. After these, followed the *Charles Carroll*, 100 tons, Capt. D. Howe, built in 1831; *Paul Pry*, 50 tons, Capt. E. Lusher, 1831; *United States*, 450 tons, Capt. Joseph Whitney, 1832; *Black Hawk*, 100 tons, afterwards the *Dolphin*, 1833; *Wm. Avery*, 200 tons, Capt. Vaughn, 1833; *Oswego*, 400 tons, Capt. Evans, 1834; *Oneida*, 300 tons, Capt. Child, 1836; *Telegraph*, 200, Capt. Mason, 1837; *John Marshall*, 60 tons, Capt. J. F. Tyler, 1838; *St. Lawrence*, 450 tons, J. Van Cleve, 1839; *Express*, 150 tons, Capt. H. N. Throop, 1839; *Geo. Clinton*, 100 tons, Capt. Chapman, 1841; *President*, 60 tons, Capt. Isaac Green, 1841; *Lady of the Lady*, 450 tons, Capt. S. H. Hoag, 1842; *Rochester*, 400 tons, Capt. H. N. Throop, 1843; *Niagara*, 746 tons, Capt. R. F. Child, 1845; *Cataract*, 620 tons, Capt. J. Van Celve, 1847.

Besides these, have been launched upon the lake, numerous sloops and schooners, cutters, &c., which are doing an immense business on the lakes, through the Welland Canal.

Messrs. Brunson and Morgan, erected the first mills at Oswego, in 1820, with five run of stone, Mr. Henry Fitzhugh, built the second mill with six run of stone, in 1830, and Messrs. Gerritt Smith and Richard L. De Zeng another; soon after, these were severally burned down and rebuilt. The Oswego Canal was completed, 1826-27, which opened an avenue to trade, which has been vastly improved by the erection of factories and mills, carried by the surplus water. Mr. Varrick's ditch, completed in 1834, one of the most extensive and valuable improvements for Oswego, bears upon its banks, on the

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west side of the river, a great amount of manufacturing and mill machinery, which adds very much to the business operations of the place.

Wonderful improvements have been made within the last few years, in the construction of machinery for mills, at Oswego, and a single run of stone will turn out from one hundred to one hundred and fifty barrels of flour, daily. Many of the improved mills, have a separate water-wheel for every run, which expedites the process of manufacturing flour, beyond anything of former invention. The spacious store-houses, with their grain elevators, unloading a vessel containing thirty thousand bushels of wheat in a few hours, are truly a wonder of the age.

Considerable additions have been made to the Oswego flouring mills during the past year. The mill of Henry Wright, on the Varrick Canal, west side, is capable of manufacturing four hundred barrels of superfine flour, daily, and his machines for cleaning, screening and separating impurities, are decided improvements upon any hitherto in use. The new mill of Messrs. Mills, Whitney & Co., up the river, has five run of stone, and his water power is improved, directly from the river. Messrs. Merrick, Davis & Co., have just put in operation a new and improved mill, with eight run of stone, capable of manufacturing over eight hundred barrels of flour, daily.

The City of Oswego has now the facilities and power to manufacture more flour than any place on the globe, and probable does, independent of the mills at Fulton situated ten miles above, where this branch of business is rapidly increasing.

The great Pier at Oswego was commenced in 1827 and completed in 1830, by Messrs. Mc'Nair and Hatch, and has since been annually improved by government agents, and now affords ample protection to the harbor.

The old light house, built on the north side of the fort, was first lit up in 1822. The new one was erected on the pier in 1836, and first lit up in 1837. Mr. Steele has been their only keeper.

Oswego was incorporated as a village, 14th of March, 1828,

the first village meeting was held in the school house, 13th day of May, 1828, and Alvin Bronson chosen President, and Daniel Hugunin, jr., George Fisher, Nathaniel Vilas, jr., David P. Brewster, Theophilus S. Morgan, Joseph Turner and Orlo Steele, Trustees.

Oswego contains now, 1848, about 12,000 inhabitants, 10 ministers of the gospel, 20 lawyers, 14 physicians, and tradesmen, millers, mechanics, machinists, &c., unnumbered. It received its Charter as a City, in the spring of 1848.

It was our design at the commencement to have given a far more extended notice of modern Oswego, than here appears, but having greatly exceeded our limits in giving the interesting details of events previous to the settlement of the country, we reluctantly dismiss the subject, leaving those who shall succeed, to complete that important portion of its history.

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## CONCLUSION.

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GENTLE READER ; these sketches and reminiscences have been prolonged to an unwarrantable length. Imperfect from the nature of things we know them to be. Correctness and truth have been aimed at throughout every part : if these have been departed from, it arises from false information, not from a desire to mislead, or underrate, or overdraw. If they have been the means of affording you the slightest gratification, the object of the author is accomplished. Sixty years have rolled around, since the first permanent white settlement was made within our borders ; sixty years have added their periods to the flight of time, since the ax of civilization has been successfully applied to the tree of barbarism in this land ; sixty years have gone by, and the face of things is entirely changed. What unlooked for events in the great wheel of human life shall rise before another sixty years shall succeed, it would be in vain for us to inquire. But when that remote period shall come, not one of us, not one of our children now on earth, except as a gray and wrinkled relic of the past, shall be found among the living. Our hills then, as now, will catch the first glimmerings of the morning, and the last rays of evening will linger on their bald and ragged brows,—but of all that *our hands* have wrought, and *our hearts* have loved, not a vestige will remain as we now behold it. What future good or ill, what storms of civil violence may pass over this land, we know not ; but so may we live, that the inheritance we have received, of freedom, truth, intelligence, virtue and faith, may be handed down unspotted, to those who shall succeed us.

END OF VOL. II.